FOXFIRE

a screenplay by

Patti Sullivan

based on the novel

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by

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FADE IN

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAMMOND, MINN. - DAY

AERIAL SHOT of this sprawling middle class suburb of the twin cities, where nature and the urban landscape are crassly juxtaposed. A beautiful lake is obscured by glass geometric buildings. Fast food joints abound. DISSOLVE INTO:

INT. AN ABANDONED HOUSE

CLOSE UP OF AN OIL PAINTING, depicting a teenage girl with short chestnut hair -- soaring like an eagle over the town of Hammond -- in just her overalls.

PULLING BACK WE DISCOVER a myriad of richly colored oil paintings and piles of oil rags.

CLOSE ON a brush mashing a dollop of brown oil paint. A long delicate hand applies a gentle stroke to a male nude.

TIGHT ON ETHAN BIXBY, a handsome seventeen year old with longish dark hair and intelligent eyes, sprawled naked on a delapidated couch, smoking a cigarette in the spirit of dreamy abandon. His eyes fill with curiosity and affection as he studies the painter.

CLOSE ON MADDY WIRTH. She is seventeen and naturally pretty with fine features, close cropped chestnut hair and a taut slim body tucked into boxer shorts and a paint stained tee-shirt. She scrutinizes the male nude figure on her canvas. He is watching tv -- inside of which a naked girl, who bears a striking resemblance to Maddy, is banging on the glass trying desperately to get out.

MADDY
(frowns)
It's stupid.

Then she drops her brush, folds her arms and walks away from the canvas. Ethan walks over to the painting and scrutinizes it.

ETHAN
You're wrong. It's great. I feel it. The frustration. Alienation. Angst. Trapped. You're trapped. And my penis is too small.

She laughs.

ETHAN
No wonder you're frustrated.
(studies his penis in the painting)
Please say you ran out of paint. That this is not a true rendering.

Maddy studies his nakedness. She's getting hot.

ETHAN
I mean if you

She gently covers his mouth with one hand and pulls off her shorts with the other. Their eyes meet. She coaxes him gently onto the couch. Slowly she climbs on top of him. Then she closes her eyes, drops her head back and starts to fuck him -- hard.

CAMERA PANS the room and various paintings, stopping on one of a lone teenage girl, staring out at a long ribbon of highway which is beckoning her forth.

CLOSE ON MADDY. Her jaw clenches. Her eyes squeeze tighter shut. She rocks harder -- almost violently -- as if trying to purge some kind of restlessness.

CLOSE ON ETHAN watching her. He's turned on. But left out. Maddy screams softly. Her face is a mask of sweat as she opens her eyes and adjusts to his curious smile.

OPENING CREDITS APPEAR ON SCREEN AS WE CUT INTO:

INT. CAFETERIA - HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL - NEXT DAY

A cacophony of lunch trays banging, loud chatter, laughter and a boom box blasting rap swirl around the center table, where Maddy fiddles with her Nikon camera while Ethan, ZOE, FRIEDA and STEVE eat lunch and play hang man. The last letter is missing on the word. The man is close to hung.

STEVE
I give up.

Ethan adds a K to the GROA_.

STEVE
Groak?

ETHAN
(smiles)
It's a verb.

MADDY
It means to watch people silently while they're eating, hoping they will ask you to join them.

ETHAN
(a sidelong glance)
Like Chester over there.

They all glance at Chester, a wannabee who wants to be at their table. Maddy focuses her camera on Steve, who smiles as Ethan tosses him a dictionary.

MADDY
(focusing her lens)
He used it on me once. He's soooo clever.

Ethan looks into the lens and shoots her a whacky smile. The flash explodes.

STEVE
What are you doing?

ETHAN
The cover for this year's yearbook.

ZOE
(to Ethan)
Why do you guys always answer each other's questions?

MADDY
(shrugs)
We're interchangeable.

ETHAN
We're synonyms.

Maddy regards Ethan affectionately, then grabs a hot dog and moves off, canvassing the room with her camera.

MADDY'S POV - The TWO ELDERLY lunch ladies in hair nets serving up hot dogs. They smile "cheese" at the camera. FLASH. Then FREEZE the still for a half second.

STEVE (O.S.)
What are you going to do if Maddy gets into R.I.S.D.?

ETHAN (O.S.)
Go to the school nearest.

MADDY'S POV - Six FOOTBALL TEAM members in their jerseys are chowing down hot dogs. DANA TAYLOR, quarterback and asshole extraordinaire, grabs his dick and mugs for the camera.

DANA
Put mustard on this, babe.

FLASH. Then FREEZE on still.

ETHAN (O.S.)
We decided we can't be apart. And we feel totally unapologetic about it.

MADDY'S POV - RITA VALDEZ, a chubby girl with large breasts and an awkward demeanor is shoveling a burger into her mouth while writing on her laptop. FLASH. And FREEZE. Rita looks up at Maddy, startled. Maddy is already moving on, oblivious to Rita's bruised reaction.

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM

The door barges open and Maddy's camera is poised for shooting as she walks towards a few CHEERLEADERS in full costume dress putting on makeup. CINDY, the team captain, looks up at Maddy and screeches.

MADDY
O.k. you jockstrap sniffers.
Say cheese!

CINDY
(high pitched)
Wait!
(to her friends)
Everyone in front of their own mirrors.

The girls line up in front of separate mirrors. Then raise their mascara to their lasnes and freeze.

CINDY
Action!

They start applying their mascara in perfect sync. FLASH. FREEZE. Maddy turns to the stalls and canvasses the grafitti. It's all scat and sex talk. As she sets up a shot, a stall door swings open and through her LENS WE SEE a young Amerasian girl with a bald head, in grunge clothes, passed out by the toilet. She is GOLDIE SEIFRIED.

Maddy lowers her camera, deciding not to take the picture.

SCHOOL CORRIDOR - Through Maddy's LENS WE SEE MR. PECK, the principal, walking towards her. He waves to the camera. FLASH. FREEZE.

TIGHT ON A HOTLINE BULLETIN BOARD on the wall. A flyer for the drug crisis hotline. Suicide crisis hotline. Rape crisis hotline. H.I.V. info hotline. FLASH. FREEZE.

Maddy walks down the hall, firing off pictures out windows, up staircases and into classrooms. She stops outside DETENTION.

Inside, LLOYD BUTTINGER, a middle aged, athletic looking teacher, is leaning in -- intimately close -- to VIOLET KAHN, a pretty young girl who oozes sex. The FLASH EXPLODES. FREEZE on Buttinger's startled face.

INT. MADDY'S BEDROOM

The room is dark, with the exception of a black light which is illuminating hundreds of neon white stars painted on the ceiling and walls -- the milky way.

CHRISSIE HYNDE is singing "FOREVER YOUNG" on the radio while Maddy assembles a collage from the photos she's taken, under a dim pin light.

INT. A CAR - NEXT MORNING

Rain is pelting the windshield of the car as A WOMAN DRIVER pulls up to the curb across the street from Hammond High. She turns and studies a figure dressed in black, curled up in the back seat sleeping -- with a switchblade jutting out of the back pocket.

WOMAN
(gently)
Hey tattoo.

The stranger stirs and WE SEE small elegant tattoos emblazoned on both arms.

WOMAN
Tattoo, honey, we're in Hammond. Minnesota. This is as far as I go. Sorry about the rain.

OUTSIDE CAR

The door opens. Long legs stuffed into scruffy motorcycle boots step out. The car peels out. AND CREDITS END.

Across the street WE HEAR a SCHOOL BELL RING. The boots crunch the gravel beneath as they start across the street AND WE CUT INTO:

INT. BIOLOGY LAB - HAMMOND HIGH

Lloyd Buttinger removes his Hammond Hawks football coach jacket and begins distributing perforated boxes at each lab station while the class trickles in. Maddy takes her seat next to Ethan. We HEAR "Rrrrrpppitts" escaping from the boxes. Frogs.

Rita Valdez, the voluptuous girl who was writing on her laptop, stares at her box terrified.

Buttinger yanks a frog out of a box up front and holds it dangling by its feet.

BUTTINGER
Partner to the right hold these suckers down face up ready for surgery. Partner to left pushpin the feet firmly into the peg board. Last year we had a rrrripppit jump off during the incision of a pulminary vein. It weren't pretty.

Rita stares frozen at the box while her female lab partner opens it. Rita let's out a pained moan.

BUTTINGER
Rita? What's wrong?

RITA
(really nervous)
Mr. Buttinger, I don't think I can do it.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR

It is empty. Except for the black boots from before moving slowly down the hall.

MALE TEACHER
Young man!

The boots keep walking.

MALE TEACHER
Young man! Stop when I'm talking to you!

The boots stop. CLOSE ON TEACHER.

MALE TEACHER
What class should you be in?

The boots turn and walk through the first door on the right.

INT. BIOLOGY LAB

As the door opens...

BUTTINGER
(to Rita, with tried patience)
Frogs don't have any value, Rita... other than they eat pesty flies and their hearts function similarly to ours. So we can learn from them.

Glancing up, he notices the long, muscular figure dressed in black, with long hair pulled back in a pony tail. She is a striking young woman with dark, penetrating eyes looking right through him with the faintest of smiles playing above the deep sickle scar on her chin. She is LEGS SADOVSKY and the class is shrinking slightly in her presence.

Her eyes slowly roam the room, stopping on Maddy, who has already stopped on her.

BUTTINGER
If you're new, take a seat and I'll get your paperwork later.
(a smile)
If I'd known you were coming I'd a ordered you a frog.

Legs takes the empty seat next to Maddy. Maddy shoots Legs a quick glance, then skims her tattoos -- small colorful totems done by the same hand.

Looking up she discovers Legs watching her. Maddy smiles awkwardly.

Buttinger pushes the scapel at Rita, whose head is bent and eyes are closed.

BUTTINGER
Rita?

RITA
(barely audible)
I can't.

Buttinger mugs for the class, exasperated. There are a few snickers. Dana, the football jock from before, waves his scapel impatiently.

DANA
Can't we just cut it?

BUTTINGER
We proceed together...as soon as Rita concludes her melodrama.
(sighs)
Girls!

A few guys join in with "yeahs" and snickers.

A GIRL
(grabbing a scalpel)
I'll cut the sucker open!

Then she sends Rita a dirty look.

RITA
(to the girl)
I just don't think it's right!
(looking down at frog)
It's so defenseless.

Then she looks at Buttinger, with the slightest hint of accusation in her eyes. He holds her stare for a brief moment.

BUTTINGER
O.k. Rita, fine. We can talk about this in detention.

RITA
(her eyes igniting with fear)
No!

Legs looks over at Rita. Her hands are shaking now and she shuts her eyes real tight wishing she could just disappear. Buttinger registers discomfort.

BUTTINGER
(awkward)
Rita?

RITA
I'll cut the frog!

Buttinger nods. Fine. Then looks at the class bewildered. This girl's off the charts. Titters.

DANA
Flake!

The FIRE ALARM SOUNDS in the hallway.

BUTTINGER
Fire drill. Leave everything as is. See you in five.

Buttinger notices Legs studying Rita. He manufactures a smile.

BUTTINGER
Go figure, huh?

Legs just looks at him. He watches her move out.

EXT. OUTSIDE CLASS

The class is crowded under a roof while the rain pounds the parking lot. Maddy is leaning against Ethan's chest, watching curiously as Legs goes over to Rita, who is fretting alone.

LEGS
(quietly)
What's the deal with detention?

Rita looks up at Legs surprised. Legs waits patiently for an answer.

RITA
(slightly hysterical)
Why don't you just mind your own business! O.k.?

A few kids within earshot snicker. But Legs just nods respectfully. She boosts herself up on the wall ledge, cups her hands in the rain, then gulps the fresh water. The BELL RINGS.

INT. LAB

TIGHT ON LEGS gently touching the frog's belly while peering intently into its frozen stare. Maddy reaches over

and with a red flair, she gently colors a heart -- -- over the frog's heart, which begins to thump like a cartoon. Maddy and Legs exchange smiles.

BUTTINGER
Class, maybe if we give Rita a count down of ten that will help her along here.

Rita is holding the scapel, trying to force herself to make an incision in the frog. The class starts counting.

MADDY
(whispering to Legs)
He's such a bastard. He always picks on her.

Legs looks at her.

LEGS
Make him stop.

Maddy registers surprise. Huh? Me? Legs looks deep into Maddy's eyes and smiles. Yeah. You. Maddy holds on Legs surprised. Unsettled. Intrigued.

Legs gets up and walks over to Rita just as the class counts down to three. She picks up the frog, walks across the room, opens the window and lets the frog jump out it. There is a stunned reaction. Maddy smiles, awed.

BUTTINGER
(startled, outraged)
Young lady, you can see me in detention!

Legs meets his outraged eyes, then sends him the smallest of smiles as she grabs her knapsack.

LEGS
I don't even go here.

Then she moves towards the door. As she opens it, she turns back and smiles at Maddy, who is watching her.

BUTTINGER
(starting for Legs)
You! Get back here!

MADDY
(jumping up, distracting him)
Mr. Buttinger? I'm not going to do it either.

Legs is out the door.

ETHAN
Mr. Buttinger, we're fine here.

Buttinger looks back and forth between Ethan and Maddy.

ETHAN
(whispering to Maddy)
I'll cut the frog. You have better things to do than sit with that dick head after school.

Ethan smiles at Buttinger. He moves on.

ETHAN
(to Maddy, perplexed)
Why did you do that?

Maddy looks at him. She doesn't know.

INT. HALLWAY

After class. Maddy is pre-occupied as she walks through a sea of kids on their way to their next class. She gestures to Ethan to go on.

MADDY
I'm gonna use the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

Maddy opens the door and slows as she sees Rita wiping her teary eyes while Legs listens -- as she rings out a tee shirt she just washed in the sink. A few other girls are refreshing their make-up at the far end.

RITA
He puts his hands all over me.

An angry spark ignites in Legs' eyes.

LEGS
What else does he do?

Rita looks off for a moment. Legs shoots Maddy a glance.

MADDY
What's going on?

FIRST GIRL
Rita's making up shit about Mr. Buttinger.

RITA
I am not! He touches me!

CINDY THE CHEERLEADER
You should be happy someone does.

A few girls laugh. Legs shoots them a fierce look. The laughter dies. Rita's crying escalates. Legs hangs her shirt on the hand dryer and punches the button. It whirs to life. Legs looks at Rita, still waiting for an answer.

RITA
He gets all close. And rubs his crotch on my ass...touches my tits...like accidentally.

Legs nods. A girl walks out of the stall and watches on sympathetically. Another girl by the sink does too.

CINDY
You just hate him cause you're dumb in his class and he gives you shit.

MADDY
Leave her alone, Cindy.

FIRST GIRL
She's crazy. Everyone knows that.

VIOLET (O.S.)
She's telling the truth.

Everyone stops on the stall at the end. The door opens and Violet Kahn, the sexy girl who Maddy photographed earlier with Buttinger, walks out of the stall. She is dressed in bold slut clothes -- miniskirt, ripped tee-shirt and shitloads of cheap plastic jewelry. Yet her face right now looks shy. Ashamed.

VIOLET
He does it to me, too.

The room goes silent.

FIRST GIRL
(teasing)
You don't count, Violet. You do it with everyone.

VIOLET
(defensive)
Well at least I know what I'm doing.

CINDY
If half the stories about you are true

MADDY
(cutting her off)
This is the nineties, Cindy. Give it up.

Cindy shoots Maddy a dirty look.

CINDY
(to Violet, Rita)
If you ask me, you're the assholes letting him get away with it.

LEGS
You're the asshole...letting him get away with it.

CINDY
Hey! No girl talks to me like that. Who the hell are you, anyway?!

Legs smiles like she can't be bothered answering. Then

LEGS
(looking around at the others)
We're all assholes. Because when that sonuvabitch picks on Rita you better tell yourself he's picking on you cause he sure would if he could.

A few girls nod. Yeah.

MADDY
So what do we do?

Legs turns her eyes on Maddy and smiles.

LEGS
Stick together. Real simple. Girls just sticking together.

CINDY
Give me a break!

Then she marches out -- her entourage close behind. Legs surveys Maddy, Rita, Violet and a few other girls.

LEGS
(smiles)
What are we willing do about it?

The girls exchange uneasy glances. Legs laughs gently. Maddy regards her, aroused by the seduction emerging in her smile. And the danger...

Another girl walks out. Rita looks plain frightened.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

The clock on the wall reads 3:00 P.M. Ethan opens a note Maddy has handed him. It reads "Something came up. Meet me at Sylvia's at 4:00...? xoxoxoxox" Ethan looks at her and shrugs. O.k. The bell rings.

INT. HALLWAY

It is jammed with kids yanking jackets out of lockers and hustling towards the exits.

Violet pushes open the bathroom door and discovers Legs perched on the windowsill, reading a paperback in her freshly washed tee-shirt.

One of the girls from earlier stops outside the bathroom door. Just as she's about to open it, her trepidation wins her over and she moves on.

CLOSE ON MADDY, watching the girl disappear down the hall. She pushes the door open and goes inside.

INT. DETENTION

Buttinger and Rita are alone in the room. Buttinger hangs up his jacket then turns to her.

BUTTINGER
Open your book to the back. Where the diagrams are.

He pulls up a seat next to her. Real close. And sees that her hands are shaking.

BUTTINGER
Now what is it, Rita?

She averts her eyes. He gently takes her hands and rubs them.

BUTTINGER
We're just going to learn about the heart.

She nods. He studies her.

BUTTINGER
You know Rita, you have very little confidence for a girl who's so talented.

Rita glances up at him. Huh?

BUTTINGER
You're a very pretty girl.

Rita looks expectantly at the door. No one's there.

RITA
(barely audible)
Pretty and talented aren't the same.

BUTTINGER
(a warm smile)
Says who?

She doesn't respond. He laughs.

BUTTINGER
That's where you're wrong.

Buttinger pulls up closer and leans his elbow smack into Rita's tit. She moves away. He moves closer.

BUTTINGER
You just don't appreciate your own value as a woman. You're way ahead of all the girls your age, you know.

She looks at him. At his watery blue eyes dropping down to her big chest. The door opens. Violet walks through it.

BUTTINGER
(startled)
Violet.

VIOLET
Mr. Buttinger, I forgot my notebook.

BUTTINGER
(annoyed)
Well...get it.

Violet glances nervously at Rita as she rummages through a desk. As she lingers, Buttinger grows impatient. The door opens again. Maddy walks in. Without a word, she crosses the room and closes the blinds.

BUTTINGER
Madeline...what do you think you're doing?

She ignores him. He starts for her when he hears the door open again. He turns and discovers Legs closing the door behind her.

LEGS
Don't let us stop you...

His face flushes with bewilderment. What?

LEGS
Go on with what you were doing.

VIOLET
(blurting out)
Pervert!

Buttinger registers shock. Anger. His eyes dart from Violet to Maddy to Legs to Rita.

BUTTINGER
What the hell is going on here?

Rita lets out a faint, nervous cry. He turns his accusing eyes on her.

BUTTINGER
(stern)
Rita...?

LEGS
Come here Red.

Rita beelines it to Legs' side. Legs starts towards Buttinger.

MADDY
(nervous)
Mr. Buttinger, um...we need to talk.

LEGS
You keep your hands off Rita.

MADDY
And Violet.

LEGS
And whoever the fuck else you do this to!

Then she grabs his nuts. The others gasp. Buttinger jumps back. Amazed. Furious.

LEGS
(a small smile)
How's that feel?

BUTTINGER
(lunges for Legs)
Why you little...!

Legs springs onto a desk. Then leaps to another. And smiles down at him...come and get me! His eyes flicker with outrage. She holds his violent gaze, undaunted. He whips around, red in the face.

BUTTINGER
This is outrageous! Absolutely outrageous! I am a teacher

VIOLET
(cutting him off)
Save it.

Buttinger turns to Maddy. He shakes his head, incredulous.

BUTTINGER
Madeline. Surely you don't believe...my God...a girl who's emotionally unstable. And one who's

RITA
(suddenly exploding)
I am not...unstable! Don't you...DON'T call me that, you...

Buttinger turns his cold stare on Rita. She shuts up.

BUTTINGER
Get the hell out of my classroom!

Rita jumps back. Buttinger grabs her arm.

BUTTINGER
Now! Do you hear me?!

Buttinger shoves Rita hard towards the door. Blood shoots into her face. Her eyes ignite with sudden rage. Then she grabs his hair and pulls it hard. The girls watch on, startled, as she growls and yanks at his tufts. Buttinger grabs Rita into a choke hold, gagging her.

MADDY
(yells)
Let her go!

Legs lunges for him. He kicks her, sending her against a desk. Violet jumps on his back, trying to restrain him from hurting Rita.

VIOLET
(to Maddy)
Get his arm!

Maddy hesitates, then grabs his arm and pries it off Rita.

MADDY
(yelling)
Stop it! Leave her alone!

Legs grabs his other arm and twists it up behind his back, sending him to his knees in pain. He looks up at wildeyed Rita with pure hatred in his eyes. She jumps on him, grabs his head and slams it into the floor. His nose sprays blood.

RITA
If you ever put your hands on me again I'll snip your little nuts off with my toe nail clippers!

GOLDIE (O.S.)
Oh...wow.

The girls look up and discover Goldie Seifried, the bald Amerasian girl, staring, glassy eyed, down at Rita and Buttinger from the doorway. She's a bit drug hazed.

VIOLET
(shaken)
School's over, Goldie. See ya tommorrow.

GOLDIE
(a dim smile)
This is great. Buttinger's such a fuck.

MADDY
Then close the door and get in here.
(gently touching Rita)
Rita. Rita.

Rita looks up at Maddy -- into her compassionate eyes.

LEGS
Come on, Red.

Then Legs and Maddy help Rita to her feet. The girls look at Buttinger, crouched over, holding his bloody nose. They are shocked and dazed by what's happened.

LEGS
Let's go.

Rita looks at Maddy -- "did I really do that?" Maddy just wraps her arm around her and leads her out. On her way out, Maddy's address book falls out of her knapsack. Legs picks it up and starts to give it to Maddy, then stops. She hangs back with Buttinger.

LEGS
(to Buttinger)
Can you get up?

He shakes his head. Yeah. He can get up. Legs nods. She slips the address book into her back pocket.

LEGS
Next time you think about hitting on a girl, you think about us first.

Then she opens the window and climbs out it.

EXT. HAMMOND HIGH

Rita, Maddy, Violet and Goldie hit the street. They look rattled by what happened. Silenced by it.

GOLDIE
(finally)
Jeez.

RITA
(fighting back tears)
It wasn't supposed to happen like that! Oh, God. We're in so much trouble!

The girls look at each other. Yeah.

RITA
What are we going to do?!

MADDY
Don't cry. Just stay calm.

VIOLET
We should get the hell outta here.

RITA
Where is she?!

They look around for Legs. She's nowhere to be seen.

RITA
Let's all go somewhere together?!

GOLDIE
(re Rita)
Does this bitch always talk in exclamation marks?

Everyone just looks at Goldie, as she calmly digs a troll doll out of her pocket. Then a fistful of pills. She presses a yellow one into Rita's hand and smiles.

GOLDIE
Here. Go there. That's where you need to go.

Maddy grabs the pill out of Rita's hand and hands it back to Goldie.

MADDY
We should all just go home. Look, it's gonna be what it's gonna be.

Rita bursts into tears. They all exchange tense, helpless glances. Maddy pulls her roller blades out of her knapsack.

GOLDIE
(repeating slowly, for effect)
If you ever put your hands on me again I'll snip your little nuts off with my toenail clippers....

Rita looks at Goldie.

RITA
(shocked)
I said that?!

The girls nod. And come close to laughter.

INT. SYLVIA'S DINER - LATER

Ethan, Zoe, Freida and Steve are tucked into a corner booth eating and staring at Maddy incredulous.

MADDY
It wasn't supposed to go like that. It got out of hand.

STEVE
(to Ethan, dumbfounded)
Your girlfriend beat up Lloyd Buttinger.

ETHAN
(still thrown)
Yeah. I got that part.

FREIDA
O.k. Wait a minute. But for Rita Valdez? Isn't she that bloated tick with red hair?

STEVE
(nods)
The one who always eats by herself.
(smiles)
The one who groaks.

ZOE
That girl would need a ouija board to get a friend. And what on this polluted earth were you doing with that slut Violet Kahn?

Maddy shoots Zoe a dirty look.

ETHAN
Christ, you're harsh Zo.
(back to Maddy)
But what were you doing with them?

MADDY
(getting angry)
I was trying to stand up for them. O.k.?

ETHAN
(gently)
O.k.

STEVE
I wanna hear the part about grabbing his balls again.

Steve pointedly picks a meatball off his spaghetti and -- as he moshes it in his hand...

STEVE
(his face contorts with mock pain)
Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

And now the whole fucking place is staring at them. Zoe and Freida laugh. Maddy rolls her eyes and fights back a smile. Ethan is still trying to make sense of all this.

ETHAN
Why didn't you go to Mr. Peck. Or someone in authority?

MADDY
(getting irritated)
If Buttinger did that to you... pressed you against the blackboard... grabbed your balls...what would you do?

ETHAN
I'd mosh his brains.

MADDY
Right.

ETHAN
But that's different.

MADDY
(getting pissed)
Yeah? Different how?

ETHAN
It just is, Maddy. And you know it.

MADDY
Why?

ETHAN
Because...Rita should have gone to somebody.

MADDY
She did. She came to us.

ETHAN
(annoyed)
You know what I mean.

MADDY
We should have gone to a guy?

ETHAN
You should have gone to Mr. Peck.

STEVE
(smirking)
Who's a very strong girl.

ETHAN
Shut up, Steve. I'm just concerned about Maddy.

MADDY
(pissed)
Well, Maddy has to go.

Then she grabs her knapsack and slides out of the booth. Ethan looks at her, sorry for upsetting her. Ignoring him, she looks down at Steve, who is scowling at the mushed meatball on his fingers. Maddy tosses him a napkin.

MADDY
Get the gonad grizzle off your digits.
People will start talking.

Then she rollerblades out.

INT. MADDY'S BEDROOM - LATER - EARLY EVENING

Maddy is listening to HOLE'S "DOLL PARTS" on the stereo while eavesdropping on a chat line on her computer.

She gets up and moves around the room. Anxious. Troubled. Picking things up. Putting them down. She sits on her bed and stares up at the stars.

There is a tap on the window. Maddy jumps up and sees a dark figure crouched on the sill outside. She registers fear...then amazement...as she recognizes Legs.

She checks herself quickly in the mirror as she moves deliberately slowly to the window. Then opens it.

LEGS
(a great smile)
Maddy...sweetheart...did I scare you?

Maddy shakes her head no as she watches Legs move through her window, bare footed.

Legs drops her knapsack to the floor, fatigued, then fixes her gaze on the constellation around her. A moment passes in silence. Maddy turns the stereo off.

LEGS
June is your favorite month?

Maddy nods slowly -- what is going on and how do you know that?

LEGS
(smiles, re the ceiling)
Acturus is high in the south.
Scorpio is low. And Vega is in the
east. A June sky.

Maddy nods, fascinated, as Legs peruses the room.

MADDY
How did you get here?

LEGS
I climbed.

MADDY
No, I mean how did you...

Legs produces the address book before Maddy can finish the question. Maddy takes it and nods. Thanks. She looks up at Legs and sees that her clothes are all wet.

LEGS
I could use some dry clothes.

MADDY
(hesitates, then)
Sure.

She gets up and moves to her closet. She fishes through it, a little uneasy.

MADDY
Where do you live, anyway?

LEGS
Mostly in my head.

Maddy looks at her. Legs laughs. Maddy smiles. Legs looks at Maddy's collage and studies it for a moment.

LEGS
I'm just passing through.

Maddy nods. Oh. Legs sticks out her thumb -- hitchhiking.

MADDY
That's not very safe.

LEGS
I look into their eyes. If it's not safe I don't get in the car.

MADDY
How can you tell?

LEGS
(smiles)
It's a question of really looking.

Then Legs turns her eyes on Maddy. They hold each other's gaze. And a spark ignites. Maddy awkwardly averts her eyes. Then the PHONE RINGS. Once. Twice. The machine clicks on.

ETHAN'S VOICE
(singing woefully the tune "SORRY" by Brenda Lee)
I'm sorryyyyyy
So sorrryyyyy
Pleeease accept my apologieeees
(talking)
My mom's theme song. Now it's mine. I love you. Are you in there?

Maddy does not pick up.

LEGS
Is that your boyfriend?

Maddy nods. Yeah.

ETHAN (V.O.)
Oh, well. Call me.

Click. Maddy looks down at the flannel shirt in her hand and offers it to Legs.

MADDY
Here. Put this on.

Legs gratefully takes the shirt, then turns her back to Maddy. Maddy looks around the room, trying to find a place to focus. And something to say.

MADDY
So...you're not in school?

LEGS
(peeling off her shirt)
I was thrown out.

MADDY
(toying with her collage)
For what?

LEGS
Thinking for myself.

Maddy smiles. She looks at Legs. Her eyes follow the long lines defining Legs' muscular back.

LEGS
Tell me what's going through your head.

MADDY
(blushing)
Um...I...

LEGS
About Buttinger. Is that his name?

MADDY
Yeah.
(thoughtful)
I've never done anything like that before.

Legs turns to her. Studies her.

MADDY
I mean...Rita's not even my friend. None of them are. That's what's so weird.

Legs nods. She lies down on the floor and stretches out, bone tired.

LEGS
She is now. For life.

Maddy holds on Legs, curious.

LEGS
(closing her eyes)
The Chinese believe that when you save someone's life you're responsible for them forever.

MADDY
We didn't exactly save her life.

LEGS
Yeah, you did.
(opening her eyes, on Maddy)
She'll never be the same. Never.
(smiles)
It was immaculate.

Maddy considers this. Huh. Legs picks a half eaten granola bar off the floor.

LEGS
(holding it up)
Mind?

Maddy nods. No. Legs hungrily devours it.

MADDY
There's a beef jerky next to Delta of Venus.

Legs glances at Anais Nin's book open on the floor.

LEGS
I don't eat things that had a face.

Maddy smiles.

LEGS
(sleepy)
Do you think it would be o.k. if I slept on your floor?

MADDY
Yeah. But you don't have to.

Legs looks up at her.

MADDY
(slightly awkward)
I mean, you can snooze in my bed if you want.

A sudden shyness washes over Maddy.

LATER - MIDDLE OF NIGHT

Maddy and Legs are sound asleep, skin tight next to each other in a twin bed. CAMERA STUDIES their sleeping faces. Their tangled hair. And bare feet sticking out of the end of the bed.

INT. MADDY'S KITCHEN - MORNING

MARTHA WIRTH, Maddy's attractive mother in her late thirties, is making breakfast with her boyfriend CHUCK. Maddy bounces in, her knapsack slung over her shoulder and her collage under her arm.

MADDY
Morning mom. Chuck.

CHUCK
Buenos dias, chiquita.

Maddy reaches for a slice of bacon. Martha playfully slaps her hand.

MADDY
Does this mean you've decided to go to Costa Rica so I can have a kegger with lots of depraved teenagers throwing up in your lazy susan and putting underwear on their head?

There is a thump upstairs. Martha looks at Maddy.

MARTHA
(not happy)
Did Ethan stay over?

MADDY
No.
(off her mother's stare)
No!

Chuck clears his throat and gestures out the window -- at Legs climbing down a tree.

CHUCK
It's only a girl.

They all watch as Legs drops to the lawn.

MARTHA
She doesn't believe in stairs?

Maddy shrugs and smiles. They all watch as Legs approaches a silver haired husky on the lawn -- who's chewing up one of the boots she left there last night. The dog jumps up and tears ass down the street, boot in mouth. Legs grabs her other boot and gives chase.

MADDY
Gotta go!

Then Maddy's out the door.

EXT. STREET

Maddy is giving chase to Legs who's giving chase to the dog.

MADDY
Hey! Wait up!

Maddy's legs are pumping hard as she watches Legs chase the dog onto a bridge and into traffic. Legs tackles the dog to the side of the bridge and yanks her boot out of

his stubborn mouth.

Legs looks up at Maddy, a bit out of breath, as she sinks her foot into her boot.

MADDY
(huffing)
You know, I don't even know your name.

LEGS
(smiles suggestively, getting to her feet)
She says...the next morning.

Maddy blushes.

LEGS
Don't worry. I'm not into straight girls.

MADDY
(thrown)
Oh..?

Legs springs into the air, grabs hold of a pole and hoists herself onto a cable running along the outside of the bridge. Then she looks down at Maddy.

LEGS
Legs.

MADDY
What about them?

LEGS
(laughs)
No. That's what people call me. Who know me.

MADDY
Legs?

LEGS
I vault without poles...that sort of thing.

Maddy watches Legs, amused and awed, as she ventures out along the cable -- both arms out. Maddy walks along side her.

MADDY
(shouting above the traffic)
So...where are you from?

Legs doesn't answer her. Maddy waits.

LEGS
Aren't you coming up?

MADDY
Are you crazy?!

LEGS
(a seductive smile)
Come find out.

Legs stops and waits for Maddy. Maddy stands there, contemplating the risks. She looks into Legs' dark eyes daring her, then laughs.

MADDY
You are crazy!

Legs crouches and hold her hands out to Maddy.

MADDY
I'm afraid of heights.

LEGS
(smiles)
Place your mind above it.

Maddy hesitates, then she places her hands in Legs'. Legs hoists Maddy onto the cable. The dog barks. Maddy looks down

AND SEES

a two hundred foot drop to the thundering river below. She looks ready to pass out. Legs firms her grip on her and laughs.

Maddy grabs onto the pole with one hand and Legs with the other and gingerly starts walking. Halfway across, Legs stops.

LEGS
Check it out.

Maddy braves another peek down -- at the town of Hammond spreading out from the banks of the river below. A flock

of seagulls swoops past them, right under their noses. Maddy giggles.

MADDY
O.k. It's a cool assed view.

Legs sends her a smile. A TRUCK HORN BLOWS and Maddy jolts, losing her footing. Legs grabs her arms. Maddy's knapsack drops -- catching on a loose cable below.

LEGS
If you hold my hands I can grab it with my feet.

And just as Maddy's about to protest, Legs grabs hold of Maddy hands, lowers herself down off the cable and tries grabbing the knapsack with her feet.

MADDY
Legs! Just leave it!

But either Legs doesn't hear her -- or doesn't want to. Maddy looks at Legs' hands in hers -- at Legs' veins popping out as the pressure builds. Their fingers intertwined. The immense trust suddenly placed in them.

MADDY
(looking up)
I can't watch this.

Then Maddy looks down and sees Legs retrieve the knapsack.

LEGS
Hold me tight, Maddy sweetheart!

Maddy nods. Yes. Yes. I will. Maddy leans forward, looking down at the whirlpool below, then into Legs' eyes as she helps hoist her back onto the cable.

Maddy sighs, relieved. Legs keeps moving on like nothing happened. As the girls regain their footing, they continue gracefully across the cable, arms spread out. Maddy is growing more confident by the second.

MADDY
(triumphant, giddy)
Sheeeeeeeenaaaa
(Legs joins in....)
Sheeeennnnnnaaaaaaaaaa!

Their echo fills the surrounding emptiness.

EXT. STREET

Legs and Maddy walk towards Hammond High, the husky still in tow. Maddy's high from the bridge is dissipating fast as she approaches the school.

LEGS
(reading her sudden trepidation)
Whatever happens in school...it won't make what you did yesterday not worth it.

Maddy regards her. She's not so sure.

LEGS
This is where I get off.

MADDY
(disappointed)
Oh.
(beat)
Is this goodbye?

LEGS
Depends on how many bottles I find.
(explaining)
I figure I should have fifty dollars before I move on.

She digs into her pocket and pulls out a scrunched up one dollar bill.

LEGS
(smiles)
Nine hundred and eighty bottles to go.

MADDY
Where are you going?

LEGS
(shrugs)
Not sure yet.

MADDY
Well, I hope you don't find all your bottles today.

Legs smiles. Maddy looks off....

MADDY
There's this house...straight out that way past the field. It's abandoned. I go there to paint sometimes. It has this incredible light. You can stay there...until you get all your bottles.

Legs nods. Thanks. The final bell rings at Hammond High. Maddy sends Legs a parting smile then starts across the street.

LEGS
(calling to her)
Maddy?

Maddy turns.

LEGS
Don't take any shit.

JOAN JETT'S "REBEL REBEL" EXPLODES ON THE SOUNDTRACK AS WE CUT INTO:

INT. HALLWAY - HAMMOND HIGH

where nearly everyone is staring at Maddy as she walks past them to her locker. The word is out.

Dana, the football jock, sneers at her as she moves past. So do the cheerleaders huddled around him. Maddy tries to ignore them.

As she moves, eyes straight ahead, down the hall past gawkers, Ethan comes up from behind, pulls her into him and kisses her neck.

ETHAN
(concerned)
Where were you last night? I called.

Maddy hesitates.

MADDY
I passed out early.

He stays on her. Looking up at him -- at the affection in his eyes -- the wisp of hair sweeping his brows -- she throws her arm around his neck and kisses him hard on the mouth.

MADDY
(taking his hand)
C'mon.

MUSIC CONTINUES UNDER AS WE CUT TO:

INT. WEINER WORLD

where Legs is at the condiment counter loading a cardboard tray up with pickles, sauerkraut and cole slaw. She hauls the tray

OUTSIDE ON THE SIDEWALK

where she and the husky dig in. As the dog inhales a pickle, Legs pets him -- then stops to pick out a flea. His hair is a matted mess.

INT. CAR WASH

Legs is standing behind the sudsy rubber noodles, trying to coax the husky in. He refuses. Legs holds out a pickle. He charges into the car wash.

MUSIC FADES AS WE CUT INTO:

INT. BIOLOGY LAB

The class is trickling in. Maddy walks in, nervously biting her lip. Buttinger is not here yet. Maddy glances at Rita, who's really sweating it. They hold each other's tense gaze for a brief moment, then Maddy sits down next to Ethan. A YOUNG MAN walks in.

MR. PENN
I'm Mr. Penn. I'll be your substitute for a few days. Mr. Buttinger is out due to a minor accident.

ETHAN
(an umpire's tone)
Safe!

Maddy sighs, relieved. She looks over at Rita, who's smiling at her. Maddy smiles back.

OVER THE PA SYSTEM
Will Madeline Wirth, Rita Valdez, Gwen Seifried and Violet Kahn please come to the front office immediately.

Shit.

INT. WAITING LOUNGE

outside Mr. Peck's, the principals', office. Rita, Maddy, Goldie and Violet are sitting there -- waiting to see Mr. Peck.

RITA
What's he going to do to us?!

Who the hell knows.

RITA
Oh, God. We're in so much trouble!

GOLDIE
Chill! You're getting on my nerves.

RITA
Well maybe I'm scared.

GOLDIE
Keep it to yourself.

Violet looks over at Goldie, stopping on the bruise around her eye. Rita reaches into her purse and pulls out a big bag of Cheese Doodles. She tears it open and sucks down a fistful. Then offers the bag to Violet. Then Maddy. She purposely does not offer the bag to Goldie.

RITA
You can have one if you're nice.

GOLDIE
That's impossible. I have too much hatred in my bloodstream.

RITA
What happened to your eye?

GOLDIE
My father punched me.

Rita giggles. Right. Goldie just stares at her.

RITA
Oh, I thought you were kidding.

There is a silence. The girls look up and notice Violet sniffing her armpits. Slowly she becomes aware of them watching her.

VIOLET
I was doing the wild thing all night with some dude. Scared the shit out of his dog. I still haven't taken a shower. I'm foul.

Then SHE SEES Mr. Peck staring at her from his doorway. The girls suppress nervous smiles as they file inside.

INT. MR. PECK'S OFFICE

The girls are sitting in front of Mr. Peck. He hands Violet a note.

MR. PECK
Intercepted between two students in class. Any truth to it?

Violet looks down at the note.

VIOLET
(dumbfounded)
It says we beat up Mr. Buttinger.

The girls send Violet a look -- come clean.

VIOLET
(to Peck, carefully)
Things got out of hand.

MR. PECK
(incredulous)
So it's true?

RITA
He was choking me!

GOLDIE
(an excited smile)
So she busted his nose.

MR. PECK
What?!

MADDY
There's a context for this.

Peck looks at Maddy.

MADDY
He was sexually harrassing Rita.

VIOLET
And me.

MR. PECK
(absorbing this)
That's a very serious charge.

GOLDIE
Duh.

Peck shoots Goldie a look.

MR. PECK
Mr. Buttinger is an outstanding teacher. And coach. With an impeccable record. There are a lot of kids in this school who look up to him.

GOLDIE
Yeah. Testosterone mutants and big haired cumdumpsters who don't know any better.

The girls suppress smiles. Peck shoots her a look -- "that's enough."

MR. PECK
(turning to Maddy)
Madeline, I'm surprised to find you involved in this.

Maddy registers slight guilt. Goldie yawns.

MR. PECK
(uncomprehending)
What are you girls...in some kind of gang here? Girls who run with foxes...that sort of thing?

The girls exchange glances and break up laughing. They can't help it.

MR. PECK
(pissed)
Oh, so you think this is funny?

No reply.

MR. PECK
Fine. I'm suspending you all for two weeks. For your conduct in this office. And for assaulting a teacher. Starting now.

MR. PECK (cont'd)
(stands)
I'll have you escorted out.

MADDY
You can't! Mr. Peck, my portfolio is due in two weeks for R.I.S.D. Everything is in the art room.

MR. PECK
Well, you should have thought of that.

MADDY
(crushed)
That's not fair!

MR. PECK
Two and a half weeks.

RITA
What about Mr. Buttinger?' What does he get?'!!

MR. PECK
Leave that to me.

VIOLET
He should be fired!

MR. PECK
Three weeks. You want to keep going?

EXT. HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL

The girls look at each other as the security guard who escorted them out walks off.

MADDY
(crushed, but sarcastic)
There goes my future.

RITA
Oh, God. It's all my fault.

GOLDIE
Yeah. Maybe you should commit suicide.

Violet suddenly squats and starts to pee, right there on the lawn. The girls look at her, stunned.

VIOLET
Hey. If he won't let us use the bathroom...

Goldie laugns. Rita looks at her and smiles. A commraderie is building.

RITA
Let's go somewhere.

VIOLET
We can go to my house and watch tv.

GOLDIE
Tv sucks. It's a lame scene.

RITA
I like 90210.

GOLDIE
I rest my case.

RITA
Don't you get dizzy constantly looking down on me?!

GOLDIE
(smiles)
I'll let you know when I do.

They look at Maddy, who's standing there miserable.

VIOLET
Hey, we'll figure something out.

Maddy just looks at her. Yeah, what?

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE

where Legs is crouched on the floor, petting the husky, surrounded by Maddy's paintings and about fifty deposit bottles and cans.

She takes a swig off an open quart bottle of Jack Daniels, then passes it to Maddy, who's looking uncomfortable.

MADDY
This isn't a good idea.

LEGS
It's not a question of good or bad. It's a question of necessity. You have to get into art school.

Legs peruses Maddy's paintings. Maddy sips the bourbon as she watches Legs scrutinize them. Legs stops on the one of the naked girl trying to escape from inside the tv.

MADDY
(bites her lip)
That one's dumb.

Then she watches Legs like a hawk, hoping for some disagreement.

LEGS
Yeah. It's really obvious. Self conscious. So are most of them.

Ouch.

LEGS
(pointing)
But that one's great.

A painting of a skinny little girl sitting alone with her bike outside a gas station at night. Her loneliness is real.

LEGS
(observing)
Maybe you're more simple than you really wanna be.

MADDY
(insulted)
What the fuck does that mean?

Legs reacts -- oops.

LEGS
(direct)
Paint your heart.
(studying painting)
It's like when you really put yourself out there...let people see you...I...
(trails off in her head, then looks back at Maddy)
I wish I could be that brave.

Maddy is struck. Legs means this.

LEGS
That's why you deserve your shot.
(that dangerous smile again)
We're gonna make sure you get it.

Legs shoots the others a look. Right girls? The girls are not so sure.

RITA
What if we get caught?!

LEGS
She took that risk for you.

Rita nods. Yeah. She did.

MADDY
I'd feel terrible if they get caught.

LEGS
Then we won't. Besides...who made you responsible for all of us?

Maddy just sort of smiles. Legs singles out Goldie with her eyes.

GOLDIE
(shrugs)
I'm down for a felony.

VIOLET
This is way risky.

LEGS
(a great smile)
Would it be any fun if it weren't?

Violet takes the point. Then gulps the bourbon. Nervous excitement builds. Maddy's still not so sure.

LEGS
(to Maddy)
Hey, you either let that prick decide your destiny. Or you take it back and drive it yourself.

GOLDIE
Fucking a.

MADDY
(thinks, then)
O.k. Let's do it.

INT. UTILITY ROOM - HAMMOND HIGH - NIGHT

TIGHT ON THE AIR VENT HATCH slowly opening. Two scruffy black boots drop down. Holding on with her right hand, Legs closes the hatch door with her left, then drops ten feet to the floor, landing graceful as a cat on her feet.

She switches on a flashlight then sweeps the room -- slowing on a fuse box and a fire alarm.

EXT. HAMMOND HIGH

The girls are anxiously waiting outside a glass door.

INT. CORRIDOR

Legs pushes open the door. The girls move swiftly inside. Then quietly down the hall and into the

ART ROOM

which is pitch dark. Legs hands Maddy the flashlight, pulls out her switchblade and picks the lock. Maddy leads Legs, Violet and Rita into the back room, where there's a bin of drawers and stacked portfolios. Goldie stands watch by the door.

BACK ROOM

Maddy hands Legs the flashlight and opens the top drawer. She swiftly leafs through a stack of sketches. She stops on one of hers and pulls it. Legs carefully hands it to Rita who slips it into the large cardboard portfolio Violet is holding.

Maddy yanks open the second drawer. She pulls two more sketches.

MADDY
(whispers)
Shit. Where are my slides?

Maddy thinks.

FRONT ROOM

Goldie is straining to see some of the paintings on the wall in the pitch darkness. She strikes a match. Then holds it under a painting as she admires it.

BACK ROOM

Maddy is frantically opening and closing drawers, looking for her box of slides. She opens another drawer. Legs focuses the light on the boxes. Maddy, Violet and Rita search for it.

MADDY
(whispering)
Fuck! All my paintings are catalogued on them.

She opens another drawer.

FRONT ROOM

Goldie pulls a baggie filled with pills and a roach out of her back pocket. She pinches the roach out and lights up.

MADDY (O.S.)
Found them!

SUDDENLY THE FIRE ALARM SCREECHES. Goldie jumps, then sees that she's lit up right by the heat sensitive fire alarm.

RITA (O.S.)
Shit!

The girls run into the front room. Goldie nervously spills her pills all over the floor. She falls to her knees and frantically tries to pick them up. Legs grabs her by the shirt and yanks her to her feet.

LEGS
Forget the fucking pills! Let's go!

CORRIDOR

The girls are tearing ass down the dark corridor. Legs hits the door first. As she opens it

SHE SEES

A squad car racing into the driveway.

WE HEAR A FIRE TRUCK SIREN approaching. Legs pulls the door shut and turns to the girls.

LEGS
(whispers)
This way! Run.

The girls dart down the hall.

RITA
(crying out)
Wait!

Legs turns and sees Rita struggling with the portfolio. Legs grabs the portfolio and Rita and pulls her down the hall. WE HEAR GLASS SHATTER.

TIGHT ON A COP, kicking the glass out of a side door. He charges in.

TIGHT ON the GIRLS running down the hall. Suddenly the overhead lights blink to life. We hear footsteps approaching.

LEGS
Shit.

Legs pushes them into a broom closet then moves down the hall and into the utility room.

UTILITY ROOM

Legs turns on the flashlight. Finds the fuse box. Then opens it and starts flipping switches.

SCHOOL CORRIDORS

the overheads lights go to black one by one.

CLOSET

Legs opens the door and grabs Rita.

LEGS
(whispering)
There's a door straight back at the end. No one's out there. Go!

Rita nods and runs. Legs tags Violet and Goldie. They dart out. She picks up the cumbersome portfolio and gestures for Maddy to go ahead. As they start out the door THEY SEE the cop moving down the hall towards them, opening classroom doors and doing a flashlight sweep.

Legs pulls Maddy back inside the closet. She rests the portfolio against the wall and draws Maddy close to her.

The door opens. A flashlight pierces the darkness, slicing right past Legs and Maddy. Maddy leans flush against Legs chest. Legs wraps her arms around Maddy's stomach and pulls her even closer. They hold their breath.

This fucking cop is taking forever. A voice crackles over his walkie talkie and he talks into it.

COP (O.S.)
Yeah. It's Simon. No sign so far of fire. Huh?
(listens)
Yeah. Probably a faulty alarm.

Maddy can barely hold her breath another moment when...the door closes. Darkness is restored. And she and Legs release their lungs, panting for fresh air.

Maddy looks at Legs. That was close. Legs smiles...yeah.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

where a fire truck roars up the driveway.

INT. CORRIDOR

Maddy and Legs lug the portfolio as they tear ass down the hall. Legs pushes open the back door and they charge across the field behind the school.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE

Rita, Goldie and Violet are anxiously passing around the Jack Daniels and slugging it. The door opens. Legs and Maddy walk through it. As the girls all see each other, relief and triumph flood the room. They grab each other and hug.

MADDY
We did it!

VIOLET
Alright.

Maddy turns to Legs, to hug her. To thank her. Legs is kneeling over her knapsack, carefully removing an old wooden box tied together with twine. She unties the twine and opens the box. Inside are a few needles. A few bottles of ink.

MADDY
What are you doing?

LEGS
Commemorating tonight.

The girls watch her curiously as she quietly pulls votive candles out of her knapsack. She places them around the room then strikes a match. Her sharp, chiseled features emerge in the glow as she reverently lights each candle.

Legs picks the half full Jack Daniels bottle off the floor and sits down, cross legged, in front of a candle and next to the old wooden box. She looks up at the girls, inviting them to sit down with her eyes. They do.

Legs stares hypnotically into a flame flickering from the wind blowing through a broken window. Then she raises the Jack Daniels to her lips and swallows long and hard.

She slowly peels off her tee-shirt, revealing small, hard breasts -- smooth white skin. The girls exchange inquisitive glances as Legs tightly wraps silk thread around a needle. Then dips it in crimson ink.

LEGS
This is so I'll always remember tonight. And you...Maddy.

Their eyes lock.

LEGS
(smiles)
And Goldie. Rita. Violet.

Her mouth closes tight and her jaw muscles flinch as she pierces her skin just below her shoulder. The girls share inquisitive, excited glances as Legs pricks the outline of a flame.

RITA
Fire?

Legs nods.

LEGS
(speaking slowly, calmly)
Because it nourishes. And it also destroys...if you don't respect it.

She looks up at them, looking strangely beautiful -- her dark eyes gleaming as she looks into their faces.

LEGS
That's what we were tonight.
(her voice dropping)
It's what we'll always be....

A trickle of blood runs slowly down Legs' arm. Then another.

CLOSE ON MADDY, her eyes misting over in wonderment as she watches Legs silently absorb the pain.

TIGHT ON RITA, rolling up her tee-shirt to examine her shoulder. Maybe...

Goldie and Violet stay transfixed on Legs.

LATER

Legs is pressing a wet cloth against her arm. As she removes it, we see a brilliant crimson and amber flame emblazoned on her shoulder. She lifts her eyes to meet the girls. We can feel the feverish excitement rippling through them.

MADDY
(pleading softly)
Legs do it to me.

Legs draws her lips back from her teeth and smiles hard. A smile of triumph. Maddy's hands tremble slightly as she removes her shirt revealing a black bra. Looking down at Legs, at the flame's reflections dancing on her naked chest, Maddy removes her bra and drops it to the floor.

She sits before Legs, crosslegged. Their knees are touching. Maddy reaches for the bottle and swallows a long gulp. She puts it down and meets Legs gaze. Then nods. Ready.

LEGS
(whispering)
Hold still, baby. O.k.?

Legs gently takes Maddy's arm and stabs a fresh needle into her pale tender flesh. Maddy clamps her jaws shut so she won't cry.

The girls crane their necks and watch the sweet glisten of blood trickle down Maddy's arm.

LATER

Goldie is lying on the floor, bare chested and inured to the pain as Legs puts the finishing touches on her tattoo. Pain is no stranger to Goldie.

LATER

Violet is sitting cross legged, staring up at the ceiling and holding back tears while her face shines with sweat as Legs artfully pricks away.

LATER

Rita's whole face is clenched but mouth is smiling as she lets in the sweetness of the pain. Her large breasts are unharnessed and she's feeling beautiful as she lies on Legs' altar, with her red hair flowing -- and the other girls watching. There is a transcendental radiance enveloping Rita. She is becoming physically changed by this.

LEGS
You're finished.

Rita opens her eyes. Her face swells with pride as she admires the flame tattooed on her shoulder. She pulls Legs close.

RITA
It's beautiful.

Then she looks into the eyes of the other girls who have shared this ritual bond and opens her arms to them. She grabs Maddy first. They hug bare breasted as Rita raises the bourbon to her mouth and drinks.

RITA
We're like those girls who run with foxes!

They break up laughing. Rita points to her flame...

RITA
Foxfire! Eat this Mr. Peck!

"TIL VICTORY" by PATTI SMITH EXPLODES ON THE SOUNDTRACK as Rita grabs Goldie, hugs her hard and pours bourbon down her throat. Goldie gives into the euphoria breaking loose in the room. She smears her sweaty body against Rita who throws her head back laughing. Real loud and sexy. Goldie takes another swig then spits the bourbon into Rita's mouth.

Violet grabs the bottle and Maddy -- and pours bourbon into Maddy's open, hungry mouth. They sway, dazed by the booze and the pain and the hypnotic candle light.

Goldie falls into Legs arms and hugs her hard.

Rita grabs Violet and bites down on her neck. The two of them careen back against the wall and slide down to the floor in a tangle of sweat and laughter.

Maddy turns around to see Legs wrestling Goldie. Rita dribbles the remaining whiskey down Goldie's back and licks it off amid the giggles and frantic laughter erupting as Violet grabs at all of them, wriggling herself into the middle.

Goldie yanks Maddy into the circle and bites down hard on her neck. Maddy raises her eyes to find Legs staring into them.

Maddy closes her lean, muscle-hard arms tight around Legs and as they turn, breaking off from the others, Maddy looks deeply, hungrily into Legs eyes...then buries her head in her neck.

Watching them, Goldie throws her back her head and lets loose with a savage howl. AND WE DISSOLVE INTO:

EXT. A PARK - NEXT MORNING

TIGHT ON Maddy lying on the grass, her eyes closed, while a hand moves up between her legs, touching her stomach, her neck, her arms -- then stopping.

ETHAN
What's this?

Maddy opens her eyes and watches Ethan examine the flame tattoo on her shoulder.

MADDY
It's...um...I got a tattoo last night.

Ethan looks at Maddy, puzzled. And threatened.

MADDY
You're pissed.

ETHAN
(sitting up)
No. I'm delighted that you've beaten up a teacher, broken into school and tattooed yourself.
(beat)
Did you hit your head lately or something?

She just smiles.

ETHAN
(with trepidation)
Or is there someone else?

MADDY
No.
(off his dubious look)
No!

ETHAN
(slightly insistent)
Then I'm seeing you tonight...?

She's torn.

MADDY
O.k.

He studies her, knowing he's losing her.

INT. GOLDIE'S BEDROOM - SAME MORNING

CLOSE ON GOLDIE opening her eyes and adjusting to the light. She smacks her lips. Cotton mouth. Winces. A headache. Then remembers...the tattoo.

PULLING BACK we find her still in her clothes from last night, lying on top of her bed in this massive bedroom, expensively furnished. A smile emerges on her face as she runs her fingers around the edge of the flame emblazoned on her arm. She closes her eyes...remembering...savoring.

DAN (O.S.)
Next time you get thrown out of school, you're getting thrown out of this house!

Goldie jumps up and instinctively covers her tattoo with her hand. She looks up at her father, a tall, dangerous sonuvabitch wearing bloodshot eyes and an Armani suit, standing in her doorway. He zeros in on a vile of pills on the floor. And goes ballistic.

DAN
Where did you get those?!

GOLDIE
(freaked, but honest)
Your black bag.

He lunges for her, ready to kill her. The door opens and Goldie's tall, blonde STEPMOTHER appears.

STEPMOTHER
Dan!

He stops. He's shaking.

STEPMOTHER
Darling, the limo for the airport is here.
(to Goldie, forcing a smile)
We'll be at the medical convention in Miami. Number's on the fridge. And some girl...or whatever...is here to see you.

EXT. HOUSE

Legs just leans in the doorway while Dan and the stepmother brush past her. She watches Dan hit the code on the security alarm keypad then close the door and get into a limousine.

INT. KITCHEN - GOLDIE'S MOMENTS LATER

Goldie cracks open a beer. Hands it to Legs. Then cracks open another one.

GOLDIE
I told him...put my face on a milk carton, dude, I'm outta here.

Legs nods.

LEGS
Yeah, well, when you didn't show this morning like you said I kinda worried.

Goldie reacts. You did?

LEGS
I've heard about your dad.

Goldie nods. Yeah, it sucks.

GOLDIE'S BEDROOM

Legs surveys Goldie's bedroom as Goldie stuffs some clothes into a knapsack.

GOLDIE
Sure you don't mind if I crash with you?

Legs nods. No. Her eyes keep roaming.

GOLDIE
Take anything you want. You can take the whole fucking house for all I care.

KITCHEN

Goldie and Legs empty beers, sodas and chips into a garbage bag.

OFFICE/LIBRARY

Mahogany and leather. Legs stops on a mounted deer head on the wall. She stares into it's dead glassy eyes.

GOLDIE
When I die I'm gonna have my fucking head mounted on wood and hung right there.

Legs smiles -- then studies a series of framed wedding photos -- of Dan with three different wives. A Vietnamese woman standing next to Dan, who is dressed in army fatigues, must be Goldie's mother. Legs sits in a big leather easy chair.

GOLDIE
That's where King Dong sleeps.

Then Legs notices two pearl handled pistols displayed on a desk. And Goldie opening her father's medicine cabinet with a key on her chain, which she wears around her neck.

HALLWAY

Goldie is lifting candles from a drawer and handing them to Legs.

GOLDIE
Did you know it only takes ninety aspirins to kill yourself?

LEGS
What's with your death fixation?

GOLDIE
Life sucks. And then you have to go outside. Isn't that enough?

Legs holds on her, entertained.

DAN'S BEDROOM

A sprawling suite. Goldie is pacing outside the walk-in closet talking to Legs -- who must be inside it.

GOLDIE
I'm thinking about writing to Dr. Kevorkian to see if he'll take me as a suicide assistant but then I start thinking I'm being corny. What do you think?

No answer. Goldie shuffles over to the closet. Legs jumps out at her -- wearing a suit of Dan's -- and a stetson hat.

LEGS
(grabbing Goldie)
Come here little girl, daddy wants you!

Goldie screeches as Legs tackles and tickles her -- sending her into convulsive giggles.

LEGS
If I hear anymore shit about ninety aspirins...or see you popping any more mood swings...daddy will tickle you to death! You hear me?!

Goldie screams laughing. CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE

Goldie is in the back, taping black contruction paper over the windows. Legs looks at her curiously.

GOLDIE
So people can't see in.

Legs nods. She grabs an old broom and starts sweeping, when a charcoal sketch that Maddy is working on catches her attention. It's of Legs. But just an outline of her.

Maddy sends Legs a smile as she lifts it off the easel and hands it to her.

MADDY
Yours.

LEGS
It's me?

Maddy nods. Yup.

LEGS
It's just an outline.

MADDY
I don't know who is she is yet.
Because she won't let me see her.
She's afraid.

Legs averts her eyes. For the first time, she's lost her balance. She stares down at the floor for a long moment...kicks some dirt with her boot.

LEGS
(finally looking up, softly)
The problem with letting someone have your heart, Maddy, is that it hurts all the more when you have to leave.
(sort of smiles)
And I always keep forgetting that.

MADDY
Don't start remembering now.

They hold each other's intense, slightly playful gaze for a real long moment.

VIOLET (O.S.)
You're not gonna believe what I got.

They turn and discover Violet walking into the house, pulling an envelope out of her back pocket. She hands it to Maddy. Maddy starts reading it.

VIOLET
It's from a girl who thanked us for standing up to Buttinger. He's fucked with her too.

MADDY
It's signed anonymous.

The girls exchange charged smiles. AS CHRISSIE HYNDE'S "REVOLUTION" FADES UP ON THE SOUNDTRACK WE CUT TO:

EXT. STREET

where Maddy and Legs are moving down the street, laughing, shoulder to shoulder -- while Rita, Goldie and Violet move right behind.

Maddy takes a wad of gum out of her mouth and shoves half into Legs' mouth.

As a yellow Hammond High school bus zips by, some kids stick their hands out and wave. A girl throws her fist

into the air, saluting them. Maddy shakes her fist back. Legs watches her and smiles.

A car full of football jocks slows as it passes the girls. Dana and a bunch of jocks inside leer at Foxfire. Violet grabs her crotch and laughs as a truck behind the car blows it's horn at the boys -- move it!

MUSIC OUT AS WE CUT INTO:

INT. SUPERMARKET - LATER SAME DAY

All the girls are moving down the aisle. Maddy is on roller blades, pushing the cart, while Legs is examining the zucchinis. She picks one up.

VIOLET
Too small.

Legs looks at her. It is? Rita giggles.

RITA
(too loud)
We're talking about penises!

A few men and women nearby turn and look at Legs holding up the zucchini. Maddy smiles. Violet selects a very large zucchini and holds it up.

VIOLET
This is the way I like 'em.

RITA
How can you tell? You know....if a guy's got a big dick...beforehand?

VIOLET
(shrugs, proud)
You get an eye for it.

ANOTHER AISLE

Violet and Rita are walking down the aisle, scrutinizing men's crotches.

RITA
That one.

VIOLET
He's all potatoes. No meat.

VIOLET
(standing up)
This...is a job...for Maytag!

As Violet and Rita grab Goldie out of her chair...WE SMASH CUT INTO:

INT. LAUNDROMAT

where Rita, Goldie and Violet are perched on the edge of washers during SPIN DRY. As the machines shake, rattle and knock...Violet's eyes roll up in her head and she lets out a scream. TWO YOUNGER GIRLS watch on transfixed as each girl launches into orgasm.

EXT. ROOF - LATER

Maddy and Legs are lying side by side, smoking a joint. And star gazing.

MADDY
Look. You can see Spica in Virgo.

LEGS
(smiles)
Summer's on it's way.

There is a silence. Maddy examines Legs' tattoos -- stopping on a bleeding heart. Underneath it is written "Audrey 1954 - 1994. RIP."

MADDY
Who's Audrey?

LEGS
A friend.
(then, quietly)
My mom.

Oh.

MADDY
Sorry.

LEGS
Me too.

More silence.

MADDY
How?

LEGS
(fighting an emotion)
A car. Booze.

MADDY
Do you have a dad?

LEGS
Somewhere.

Maddy studies the discomfort on Legs' face. Revelations aren't easy for her.

MADDY
Legs, we're your family.

Legs looks off -- her emotions are beginning to show. She gets up and walks to the edge of the roof, climbs out onto the ledge and stares out at the night. There is a silence.

LEGS
I'm thinking about moving on in a few days.

MADDY
(visibly upset)
To where?

LEGS
(quietly)
Wherever I find my scene.
(smiles)
I figure I'll know it when I get there.
(looking at Maddy)
I've made a promise to myself not to get stopped before I do.

MADDY
Do you have to go alone? I mean... would you bring someone with you?

LEGS
(smiles)
Is that someone sure? Is she cut out for the unknown...
(quietly)
Sometimes the unknown will disappoint you.

Maddy gets up and walks over to Legs. Then climbs out on the ledge next to her. Another silence.

MADDY
If I told you I loved you, would you take it the wrong way?

LEGS
(laughs)
What do you mean by...wrong?

Maddy averts her eyes, embarrassed.

MADDY
I'm not...I just...this is hard cause you're...

LEGS
(smiles gently)
Maddy? I would take it however you want me to.

Their eyes lock. Tension builds. Legs studies Maddy's hunger. She gives her a calm smile. Then Maddy leans slowly into Legs...and kisses her hard but tender on the mouth. A silence follows. Then WE HEAR A CAR PULL UP on the street below.

EXT. HOUSE

Dana and his friends start up the steps. Dana bangs on the door. It opens. And Violet looks at him. The boys try to poke their heads inside.

TOM
So is this neadquarters?

RITA (O.S.)
Who is it?

VIOLET
Dumb jocks.
(to Dana)
What are you doing here?

DANA
We have a little problem, girls. It's called Lloyd Buttinger.

The boys nod, while trying to sneak peeks inside the house.

VIOLET
What about him?

DANA
You see this nasty little rumor got started and now all these girls are signing a petition to get him fired.

RITA
(appearing in doorway)
Alright!

VIOLET
(to Dana)
What's your point, Dana?

DANA
Our point is...you girls started it... so you'd better stop it.

VIOLET
Or what big guy?

DANA
(pissed)
Or you'll be fucking sorry. If coach Buttinger loses his job cause of you sluts, you'll pay!

The door widens. And Legs stares at Dana with sheer menace in her eyes. Dana shrinks a little.

DANA
(guffaws)
Oh, right! Like you scare me, girl.

BOBBY
Shut, up, Dana.

DANA
Who the fuck you telling to shut up?!

BOBBY
(to Violet)
Violet, ignore him. Look, I just came to see if it's true...you know... the stuff about Buttinger.

Violet regards Bobby, a big oafy football jock with a kind face and concerned eyes. She glances at Rita and pulls her to her side.

VIOLET
Bobby, do you know Rita?

Rita's and Bobby's eyes spark with interest as they meet.

BOBBY
Sort of. Hi.

Rita looks at Violet -- him?

VIOLET
Maybe.

BOBBY
Maybe what? It's true?

VIOLET
(a smile)
No. It's definitely true. Maybe you'd like to come inside and talk about it.

Bobby glances nervously at Legs. She steps aside. Sure. His friends whistle and slap his back.

DANA
(looking Violet up and down)
Hey, Violet, I was thinking about you last night...

His friends snicker. Violet lets loose with one of her thermonuclear sexy smiles.

VIOLET
That's funny, baby, cause I was thinking about you too...lying there...naked...on your belly... with that cute ass of yours...your legs spread open...waiting for what I had in my hand...

Dana's friends laugh at him -- real loud as his face turns fire engine red.

VIOLET
(a great smile)
Aren't you interested in what I did next?

He stands there speechless. Ethan suddenly arrives on the landing. He looks at the jocks, incredulous. This couldn't be.

VIOLET
(calling into house)
Maddy!

Maddy appears at the door. And sends Ethan a weak smile. Legs sends Maddy a parting smile as Maddy moves past the jocks and down the steps with Ethan. WE HEAR the door slam on the rest of the jocks. And their moans.

ETHAN
(incredulous)
Dana Taylor? Is that who it is?

Maddy busts up laughing. She can't help it. That is too much. Even Ethan smiles. O.k. O.k.

INT. A BEDROOM UPSTAIRS - A LITTLE LATER

CLOSE ON RITA, her eyes are dilated with horniness.

RITA
(real sultry)
Twisting her ass out of her fur bikini
she unzipped his pants...
took his weenie
in her hands.
Hard. Big.
She knew it would be. She could tell.

BOBBY
How?

RITA
Shhhh. You have to step into the fantasy.

PULLING BACK WE DISCOVER THEM partially clothed on the bedroom floor.

BOBBY
How?

RITA
(a wicked smile)
Remove my fur bikini.

Bobby looks at her white cotton underpants...whatever she says. Afterall, she's gotten him furnace hot so far.

DOWNSTAIRS

There is a thump upstairs. Violet, Legs and Goldie look up over their "GO FISH" hands. The door opens and Maddy walks in. They look at her.

MADDY
We had a fight.

WE HEAR RITA MOAN. Maddy looks up at the ceiling.

MADDY
(delighted)
Rita?

GOLDIE
You think she's doing it?'

VIOLET
(listens)
Just foreplay.

Another loud moan.

VIOLET
(impressed)
Bobby's good. Who knew?

The girls smile. They monitor the silence. Then a really loud, heaving sigh comes from Rita.

VIOLET
Alright, Red!

The floorboards in the ceiling start to squeak.

MADDY
There she goes!

The girls high five each other. JOAN JETT'S "HIDE AND SEEK" EXPLODES ON THE SOUNDTRACK AND PLAYS UNDER THE FOLLOWING MONTAGE:

EXT. STREET - NEXT DAY

It is a beautiful spring day -- buds are coming to life on the trees lining the streets. The girls have nothing but time on their hands as they walk and laugh at Rita, who's walking a bit gingerly this morning.

Maddy, who is roller blading backwards, is directing her obscene gestures with her pelvis at Rita. Goldie cracks up laughing.

Maddy starts circling Goldie on her blades, playfully blocking her path. As they move on together, Maddy notices a group of grunge kids, who are high on drugs in the playground.

They are watching Goldie, an old member of the gang. Goldie nods to them as she moves past the playground. Their eyes follow her down the street.

EXT. ROLLER BLADE SHOP

where the girls are renting blades. Their tee-shirts are rolled up and their Foxfire tattoos are proudly displayed. Violet, Legs and Goldie are naturals as they perform figure eights on the sidewalk.

Rita is totally wobbly. Violet and Legs catch her from falling.

EXT. ANOTHER STREET

Legs and Goldie race for first place as Violet and Maddy glide gracefully behind them -- in front of Rita, who is pedaling a bicycle.

EXT. A FRUIT STAND

As the girls coast by a fruit stand, Violet steals a melon. The owner, a big gruff, hairy guy in his thirties, starts chasing her.

The girls tear ass on their skates, leaving the guy in the dust. The guy runs back and jumps on his motorcycle. He kick starts it and races after them. As he approaches them...

Legs grabs hold of the back of a truck blasting down the street and reaches her other hand out to Maddy, who reaches her other hand out to Goldie who does the same to Violet who does the same to Rita. As the eight wheeler roars around a corner, the Foxfire whip snaps with it -- leaving the motorcycle in the dust.

MUSIC FADES AND WE HEAR LOUD CRIES...AS WE CUT INTO:

EXT. A LAKE

where the girls dive bomb together off a cliff into the cool crystal water, bare ass naked, in the distance. As the girls screech and laugh and duck and dive WE DISSOLVE INTO:

INT. FOXFIRE HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Maddy is alone in the house, adding some finishing touches to the painting she has done from the collage. It strongly bears her signature -- a patchwork of different optical impressions juxtaposing striking, idiosyncratic colors.

She drops the brush into a can then grabs another coffee can filled with old turpentine.

EXT. HOUSE

A soft rain is falling as Maddy dumps the turp into the dirt. She shakes the can out.

CINDY
Maddy?

Maddy turns and discovers Cindy, the cheerleader we've met before in the bathroom, standing there watching her with timid eyes.

MADDY
Hi, Cindy.

CINDY
Could I talk to you?

Maddy nods, a bit distracted. Cindy moves towards her, looking a bit shakey.

CINDY
I'm scared.

Maddy regards her.

CINDY
Dana and I got in this fight... he started pushing me...hitting me...

Cindy meets Maddy's sympathetic gaze.

CINDY
I took off on him. He's out looking for me. And I'm sort of scared to walk home alone.

MADDY
Where do you live?

CINDY
Willow Lane.

MADDY
(nods)
Why did you come here?

Cindy shrugs.

CINDY
You guys sort of have this reputation...
(shrugs)
I was sort of hoping you'd help me out.

Maddy nods and places the can on the ground. They start walking. There is a silence.

CINDY
Thanks for doing this...with it raining and all.

MADDY
I'd do it for any girl.

Cindy studies her curiously.

CINDY
Dana says you're all a bunch of man haters.

MADDY
(shrugs)
We're just a bunch of girls who stopped taking shit.

CINDY
(shrugs)
Dana says he doesn't respect girls much, anyway.

MADDY
(teasing)
Dana says. Dana says.

Cindy smiles, embarrassed.

MADDY
Dana's just one of those guys who's all pissed off cause girls have more orgasms.

Cindy giggles. Maddy smiles. Then places her hand gently on Cindy's shoulder.

CINDY
(stops)
Maddy, I can go the rest of the way.

MADDY
I'll walk you. Willow's just around the corner.

CINDY
(suddenly anxious)
Yeah but I...you should go home.

Cindy averts her eyes. Maddy scrutinizes her.

MADDY
Cindy, what's wrong?

A car comes screeching up. Four doors open. Dana and a few drunk friends pile out.

DANA
(to Cindy)
We'll take over from here, babe.

Maddy's eyes shoot back and forth between Cindy and Dana. Dana starts moving towards Maddy, wearing a sleazy smile, while his friends slowly crowd around her. Maddy looks at Cindy. At the guilt and regret on her face.

DANA
How about we go for a little ride?

MADDY
(a hard smile)
You watch too many corny movies, Dana.

DANA
Yeah? Well Coach Buttinger got fired and we think you girls are getting a little too big for yourselves.

MADDY
Yeah? What are you going to do about it?

DANA
(sneers)
What you've been wanting me to do for a long time.

Dana rubs his crotch suggestively. Maddy looks a- -ndy.

DANA
Cindy knows you have. That's why she's coming. She's a witness.
(smiles)
One girl's word against another.

CINDY
Dana, maybe this is a bad idea.

DANA
We're just gonna fuck around some.
(grabbing Maddy's arm)
Get in the car.

MADDY
(shoving him)
Fuck off!

DANA
(grabbing Maddy)
Oh, we got a fighter here!

MADDY
Cindy!

CINDY
(crying out)
What do you want me to do?!

MADDY
What the fuck is wrong with you?!

Cindy watches Maddy stare right through her as she struggles with Dana who's pushing her into the car.

One guy fires up the engine. Maddy kicks Dana as he tries to push her inside. Another guy grabs her legs.

CINDY
Stop it! Come on you guys! It's not funny!

Dana grabs Cindy and shoves her into the car. As he turns, Legs knees him in the groin and drives her fist square into his astonished face.

Goldie is standing behind her, holding the crazed husky back. Dana straightens then hurls himself at Legs. His friends pile out of the car and start shouting -- egging him on to beat her ass.

As Dana lunges for her, Legs swivels, whips out switchblade and presses the knife against his throat. She looks at the others wildeyed.

LEGS
You have three seconds to let her outta that car before this asshole loses his pulse.

A MAN
(shouting)
Drop the knife!

Legs glances at TWO MEN running towards them. She looks at Dana, then the men -- then grabs Maddy's hand and starts running. As the men run towards them, a black sedan screeches up.

GOLDIE
Get in!

Legs sees Goldie behind the wheel of the car, yanks the back door open and pushes Maddy inside. The husky dives in next. A GUNSHOT is FIRED into the air.

INT. CAR

LEGS
(jumping in)
Floor it!

Goldie floors the gas. The car fishtails out.

GOLDIE
I don't know how to drive!

Legs climbs up front and takes the wheel.

LEGS
Take it easy, Golds. Crawl under me.

Goldie crawls under Legs, who is now in the driver's seat.

LEGS
(re car)
Where'd you get this?

GOLDIE
It was those guys...with the guns.

MADDY
Who were they?

GOLDIE
I dunno. But I wasn't taking any chances.

Legs shoots Goldie a proud smile.

MADDY
How did you guys know what was going down?

GOLDIE
We were running nearby. Toby heard you.

Maddy grabs Toby, the husky, and hugs him tight. Legs slows...

LEGS
Is that Red and Violet?

WE SEE Rita and Violet walking towards the house. Legs stops the car long enough for Maddy to open the door and yank them inside. They read the panic.

VIOLET
What's up?

GOLDIE
(matter of factly)
Maddy was almost raped. And we just stole a car.

VIOLET
(glib)
Oh.

RITA
You what?!

Goldie's eyes stop on a cb radio hitched under the dashboard as the car careens past a string of fast food franchises. Goldie switches it on.

DISPATCHER'S VOICE
(crackling)
Stolen black unmarked Ford sedan... the corner of Willow and Grove... heading northbound on Holland Boulevard...

MADDY
Shit.

LEGS
That's us.

GOLDIE
(stunned)
I stole a police car.

MADDY
(dumbfounded)
They were cops.

RITA
Good going, Golds.

MADDY
(to Legs)
What are we going to do?

Legs carefully veers the black sedan around slow moving traffic at an intersection.

LEGS
Lose this car and beat it.

Legs eyes case the road ahead. A SIREN WAILS behind them. Maddy looks out the back window AND SEES a patrol car approaching. Fast. Legs floors the gas. Grips the wheel tight.

MADDY
Maybe you should just pull over.
We could explain this...

But Legs ignores her. She swerves around a car in front and rockets ahead, bursting through a red light and nearly sideswiping a row of parked cars. The girls exchange tense glances.

MADDY
Legs!

Still no response. Maddy holds on her. What the fuck?

COP'S VOICE
(over cb)
Charlie four in pursuit. We have the stolen police vehicle in sight.

Legs switches off the cb radio.

RITA
Why isn't she pulling over?!

Legs doesn't respond.

MADDY
(rattled)
Hey, is there something you're not telling us?

LEGS
(quietly)
Yeah.

The girls exchange more looks. Shit. Legs feels their fear and apprehension.

LEGS
(laughs)
It's not so bad as you're thinking.
(consulting rear view mirror)
I just don't like the inside of police stations.

Then she cuts a sharp left -- and races down a two lane road.

LEGS
Hold on tight girls.

There's a diesel truck barreling towards the intersection, flashing yellow lights but Legs isn't going to stop. She leans hard on the horn and the car fills with screams as she swings blind into the left lane and plunges past the truck driver's astonished face.

Goldie starts choking with laughter as Legs swings the car back into the right lane, avoiding a head on collision with some old guy in a rattletrap pick up truck.

RITA
(looking back, wildeyed)
They're still on us!

GOLDIE
Legs, don't let them get us!

The car skids on a razor sharp turn. Toby cries out. Maddy cradles him in her arms. Legs looks in the rear view -- at the cherry tops flashing. The squad car is gaining.

MADDY
Legs!

And just in time Legs cuts the wheel -- swerving around a bakery truck. Maddy is thrown against Rita, and Rita is thrown squealing against Violet.

Legs holds the wheel tight, gripping it high, as she rockets past a strip mall and plunges down a steep hill. It starts raining harder.

Legs does not take her foot off the gas as she flips on the windshield wipers. She squints to see through the downpour. Rita looks out the window. No cop car.

RITA
Go girl go!

They all look at Legs, proud and relieved. But she's not aware of them. Trees are flying by so fast they're just a blur. Legs consults the rear view and flips on the cb.

COP'S VOICE
(crackling)
We're on them. Approaching route seven...just south of Black Creek Bridge.

As the car skids around a bend, they see a bridge up ahead. WE HEAR A SIREN approaching. Toby barks wildly. Maddy leans forward and places her hands firmly on Legs' shoulders -- supporting her. Rita and Violet grab each other's hands.

Legs grimmaces as she speeds towards the bridge.

ANOTHER COP'S VOICE
(crackling)
We're heading them off at the other side!

LEGS
Get down!

And before the girls can react, there's another squad car, parked sideways, blocking the road on the other side. Legs slams on the brakes. The car spins. Crashes into a side rail -- bounces off it -- turns onto its side and skids along the wet pavement -- sparks flying. The car windows rain chards of glass. And as flames shoot out of the engine, which is still gunning, cops race towards the car, guns drawn, from every direction.

INT. HAMMOND POLICE PRECINCT

where the girls are sitting silently -- staring at Officers Hillman and Bailey. They are a bit banged up -- minor cuts and bruises. Nothing serious.

HILLMAN
You girls better start telling the truth.

MADDY
(tired, slightly hostile)
We tried that.

HILLMAN
Well, the boys and that other girl say you all started it. And your story still doesn't explain why you stole a police vehicle. And resisted arrest.

Legs clucks as she stares at Hillman with calculated disdain. He focuses on her intensely, trying to intimidate her with his eyes. She sneers and stares right back at him. He's developing a real dislike for her. And he ain't hiding it.

HILLMAN
Unless you girls start talking some truth, you're all gonna get charged with theft of a police vehicle, resisting arrest and assault with a deadly weapon.
(smiles)
Now what do you have to say to that?

LEGS
That we're not interested in your categorizations.

Bailey and Hillman stare at her -- at the hard, palpable defiance on her face.

BAILEY
How does a girl become like you?

LEGS
How does a girl not?

HILLMAN
Break 'em up!

Hillman grabs Legs and yanks her hard out of her chair.

MADDY
Hey!

LEGS
(to the girls)
They're gonna try to scare you. Humiliate you. That's how they get people to confess to their truths.

Hillman handcuffs Legs.

RITA
She didn't do anything!

As Bailey pushes Legs out the door, the girls exchange frightened glances.

VIOLET
(nervous)
What are they gonna do to us?'

INT. A TINY OFFICE

where Hillman sits next to Maddy, trying to make nice. She is trying not to look nervous.

HILLMAN
You look like a nice girl, Madeline. Maybe you've gotten in with the wrong crowd. Feel like you owe them something.

Maddy just looks at him.

ANOTHER OFFICE

where Bailey is pacing around Goldie.

BAILEY
Yeah? Well you wanna know what your friend Legs is saying about you in there? She says you stole the car.

Goldie looks at him crestfallen. Did Legs really say that? A "gotcha" spark ignites in Bailey's eyes.

GOLDIE
Diaper your mouth, dude. You're talking a lot of shit. She's my friend. And she'd never say that.

Bailey nods, then glances at Goldie's arrest sheet.

BAILEY
Is your father Dr. Seifried, the heart specialist?

GOLDIE
Don't you love the irony? He's such a heartless fuck.

Bailey just scrutinizes her.

GOLDIE
(snotty)
Don't you know what irony means?

BAILEY
Don't you know what one to five means?

Goldie's expression sobers.

ANOTHER OFFICE

where OFFICER JANE WHITE pins Legs' naked body against the wall.

WHITE
Spread 'em.

LEGS
You wanna look up my ass so bad, you spread 'em.

White kicks Legs' feet apart.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CURTAIN

Violet and Rita exchange petrified looks.

LEGS (O.S.)
You are really low on the food chain, babe, you know that? Uh-oh, I gotta shit!

We hear a slam. A thud. A hard slap. Then a moan coming from Legs.

WHITE (O.S.)
You fuck with me and you're in for more of that. You got it?

There is an eerie silence.

WHITE (O.S.)
You're going away Sadovsky. And I got a pretty good idea you know what you're in for.

Tears shoot into Rita's eyes.

RITA
How did this happen to us?

Violet puts her arm around Rita, trying to console her.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAYS LATER

JUDGE OLDACKER, an older man, looks sternly down from the bench at Maddy, Violet, Rita and Goldie in this courtroom which is crowded mostly with curious teenagers. And the girls' parents. He is in the middle of talking...

OLDACKER
You girls fell in with a bad element. I hope you've learned from it. I am turning you over to the care of your parents. They, better than I, know what's best for you.
(sighs)
Don't let me see you in here again.

The girls nod. And exchange relieved glances as the judge examines a piece of paper.

OLDACKER
Margaret Sadovsky?

Legs rises. Oldacker glances up at her, then back to the piece of paper.

OLDACKER
I think some adult guidance... supervision...could benefit you too, young lady. Because you have no legal guardian...is that right?

Legs nods. That's right.

OLDACKER
And because you have been additionally charged with Assault With A Deadly Weapon...and because you appear to be the most culpable of the defendants...and have a previous record...I hereby sentence you to

OLDACKER (cont'd)
serve one to three years at a youth correctional facility.

The girls gasp -- stunned. Horrified.

GOLDIE
She's going away!

MADDY
(jumping up)
You can't do that!

OLDACKER
Sit down!

MADDY
(remains standing)
She was trying to protect me!

OLDACKER
I said sit down!

MADDY
You've got this all wrong! You can't do it!
(calling across to Cindy)
You liar! Cindy, godammit, tell him the truth!

OLDACKER
You watch your mouth in my courtroom!

GOLDIE
(jumping up)
Fuck your courtroom! There's no justice here!

VIOLET
(jumping up)
If she goes, we all go!

OLDACKER
(to court officers, re Legs)
Take her away!

MADDY
Noooooo!

Maddy starts for Legs. A cop grabs her. Legs looks back at Maddy as she's being yanked to her feet and cuffed. There is a hard dignity to her heartbreak.

Maddy turns her rage on Dana and his jock friends who are gloating as they escort Cindy out.

MADDY
You're not gonna get away with this! I won't let you!

Violet, Goldie and Maddy fight back their tears. Rita's dam breaks.

MADDY
(crying out)
Legs!

Legs turns. Their eyes lock.

MADDY
Don't take any shit!

As Legs is escorted through the door Maddy's, Violet's, Goldie's and Rita's parents move to claim their daughters. AND JANIS JOPLIN'S "CRYBABY" WAILS ON THE SOUNDTRACK.

EXT. COURTHOUSE

Violet's mother, a waitress dressed in her uniform, yanks her out the door.

MOTHER
No dates. No boys. You hear me?

Violet looks at her mom -- she's clueless.

Maddy moves past him Martha, who ain't looking too happy either.

MARTHA
You keep going like this, young lady and you're gonna wind up on Geraldo.

Maddy looks up and sees Ethan staring at her. Bewildered. But sympathetic. She turns to him and hugs him hard. Then keeps going.

Dr. Seifried's tight smile fortresses his rage as he guides Goldie with his firm hand -- gently nodding to the parents who know and respect him.

INT. MADDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Maddy is crouched in her windowsill, staring despondently out at the empty night. Toby is lying on the floor looking up at her forlornly.

INT. CORRECTIONAL FACILITY - LEG'S CELL

Legs is sitting on her cot, staring out through the bars on the window at the clear night sky.

EXT. GOLDIE'S HOUSE

WE SEE that Goldie has a badly busted lip as she opens her bedroom window...and throws her knapsack out it -- to the grass below. She climbs out and down a drain pipe.

EXT. STREET

Looking lost and despondent, Goldie ambles into the playground we saw earlier, where a bunch of grunge teenagers are nodding out on dope. She hesitates. Then starts walking towards them.

She sits down next to a skinny girl with glazed eyes and real bad teeth and nods. The girl offers her a faint smile then digs into her pocket and presses wrapped tin foil into Goldie's hand. As Goldie unfolds the foil -- and stares at the heroin inside it, WE HEAR

RITA (V.O.)
It's over. Finished.

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - HAMMOND HIGH - NEXT MORNING

where Rita, Violet and Maddy are huddled in the corner.

RITA
We are not even allowed to "fraternize" in the hallway.

VIOLET
If we're seen together, it's immediate expulsion.

A sullen silence.

MADDY
Where's Goldie?

VIOLET
(worried)
She didn't come back to school.

RITA
And she's not at the house. I checked.

MADDY
Shit! We've gotta find her.

The BELL RINGS. Maddy grabs her knapsack and starts for the door.

EXT. HALLWAY

As Maddy turns the corner, her face suddenly calcifies. Dana, Cindy and a group of jocks are moving towards her, jeering at her. Maddy fixes her outraged eyes on Cindy.

ETHAN (O.S.)
They're not worth it.

Maddy turns to Ethan. He places his hand on her shoulder and sends her a sympathetic look.

ETHAN
They're pond scum.

MADDY
(broken hearted)
They put her away.

ETHAN
(nods)
Yeah. Sorry.

She looks at him. He means it.

EXT. SCHOOL

Maddy and Ethan are walking on the grounds during lunch recess. Kids are milling about. A frisbee whooshes past.

ETHAN
(hurt)
You know, you could have told me what was going on with us.

MADDY
I didn't know. I still fucking don't.

He stops. She looks at him. There is still a spark. He smiles, acknowledging it.

MADDY
(backing off)
Look, Ethan, I've got a lot on my mind.

ETHAN
(annoyed)
Yeah, and I don't.

MADDY
(sincerely)
I'm sorry.

ETHAN
(angry)
Just stop apologizing!

She looks at the raw hurt on his face.

ETHAN
And being so fucking vague.
(looking away)
Break up with me already! I can't stand the confusion.

MADDY
(quietly)
I can't either.

They hold on each other for a moment.

MADDY
I hope you'll be my friend.

He looks down. Doesn't know if he can be.

INT. MADDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

MARIANNE FAITHFUL SINGS "BROKEN ENGLISH" UNDER AS Maddy sneaks past Martha, who is dozing in front of the tv.

EXT. GOLDIE'S HOUSE -- LATER

Maddy roller blades up to the front door and rings the bell. Waits. Rings. Waits. Nothing. MUSIC CONTINUES UNDER...

INT. A SHITTY APARTMENT

where Goldie is sitting on a delapidated couch, completely stoned out -- next to the skinny girl with bad teeth, who is preparing a set of works.

Goldie watches as the girl ties a belt around Goldie's arm, real tight and finds a vein. She bangs the heroin into it. Goldie's head drops back.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE

Maddy looks around, past Legs' bottles and cans...past the easels. No Goldie.

EXT. PLAYGROUND

Maddy skates slowly past the playground. A few dopers. No Goldie.

EXT. MAIN BOULEVARD

Maddy cruises past the Taco Bell. McDonalds. Sylvia's Diner. Looking into Sylvia's SHE SEES Ethan, Steve, Zoe and Freida sitting in a booth eating and talking.

She skates on.

MADDY (V.O.)
Hi, can I talk to Rita?

RITA'S MOM (V.O.)
Rita is not allowed to come to the phone.

INT. MADDY'S BEDROOM

Maddy lowers the phone. Shit. Then something hits her. She goes to her computer. Turns it on. Goes into AMERICA ON LINE...selects the teen chat line...and scans the handles on it.

MADDY
Come on, Rita. Be here.

Maddy's eyes stop on the handle "HORNY NO MORE"...then the following appears on her screen

After I undid his zipper
I felt near faint
It was the size of...FLIPPER!

Maddy smiles. And types..."Rita, is that you?" No Reply. Then..."Who knows my real name?" Maddy smiles and types "Maddy." Pause on the screen. Then..."Alright girl! Got past my mother!" Maddy smiles. Then types..."Red, I have an idea."

INT. HAMMOND HIGH - NEXT MORNING

On Cindy, moving down the corridor. A FLASH EXPLODES. Cindy looks, stunned and puzzled -- at Maddy who continues to snap away with her camera.

INT. PHOTO LAB - AFTER SCHOOL

Maddy and Violet look at the photos of Cindy. Maddy selects one. She hands it back to the COUNTER GEEK.

MADDY
Blow up this one. Eight by ten.

INT. RITA'S BEDROOM

Rita is staring at her blank computer screen...waiting for a transmission. A sketch of Legs emerges. The dark piercing gaze. The smile. And then bold words underneath appear...**GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT. FIGHT BACK. FIGHT ASSHOLES.**

RITA
(smiles)
Brilliant!

EXT. HAMMOND HIGH - MORNING

Kids are spilling out of buses. Maddy, Rita and Violet are posing for a self timed picture -- looking mean as shit into the camera. Maddy's eyes catch Ethan's as he passes.

MADDY
Hey.

ETHAN
Hey.
(an awkward beat)
Watcha doing?

MADDY
Making more trouble.

ETHAN
(smiles)
What else.

MADDY
I could use your help.

He holds on her.

INT. YEARBOOK OFFICE

The door is locked. Ethan is setting up the printing press. On top is a page that simply reads **FOXFIRE SCREAMS...BULLSHIT.**

Maddy hands him the sketch she did of Legs...he reads the caption underneath...

ETHAN
She's the one who had the knife
a previous record
and a bad attitude.
While really, all she did, was protect
a girl from being raped.
I love the lies.

He looks at Maddy. She is busy cutting and pasting.

INT. CELL - SAME MORNING

CLOSE ON LEGS' FACE sweating profusely, as she closes her eyes and lifts up. WIDENING WE SEE her doing chinups on the door frame. Her cell is a tiny room with a cement floor, a cheap throw rug and a twin bed.

On the wall is a sign that reads: NO TALKING AFTER LIGHTS OUT. NO LOITERING AT ANY TIME. NO SMOKING. NO SHOWERS OUTSIDE OF DESIGNATED AREA. NO SHOES WORN LYING IN BED. NO MISSING ANY MEALS. NO UNTIDY ROOMS.

We are still reading the no's when we hear Legs cry out. Her fingers slip and her nails tear -- as she falls hard on her side, her spirit shattering as she hits the floor.

INT. KINKO'S COPY CENTER - LATER

CLOSE ON A XEROXED COLOR COPY OF THE PHOTO Maddy took of Cindy -- with a penis attached to her and the following copy written under..."HONORARY SPERM POSSE MEMBER."

WIDENING, WE WATCH the GIRL behind the counter flip through the zine prototype, looking rather astonished.

She STOPS ON A XEROXED CLOSE UP of the PHOTO of Maddy, Violet and Rita -- looking real mean as they stare out at us. Under it is written..."HEY, DANA, YOU SPINELESS LITTLE SHIT -- TELL YOUR LIES TO OUR FACE!"

RITA
(approvingly)
It totally works.

As the girl turns another page...

MADDY
So how much is a thousand copies?

GIRL
A thousand?!

Maddy, Rita and Violet nod yeah. The girl holds on them. Then looks around. She leans forward.

GIRL
(sotto)
Come back at midnight. I'll do them for free.

Maddy, Rita and Violet smile. Alright.

MADDY
It's already working.

VIOLET
(to girl)
See ya later, girlfriend.

The girl smiles at them as they walk out. As she sneaks a page onto the copier in the back, a DRUM STARTS TO BEAT UNDER...HANDS ON A KETTLE DRUM...REAL SIMPLE...AND IT CONTINUES...

EXT. PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

Maddy roller blades past. Slows on a bunch of dopers. Skates in and talks to them.

INT. FLEABAG APARTMENT

where Goldie is shooting up with the girl from before. A knock on the door rouses the girl. She hides the works and opens the door.

Maddy walks in and sees Goldie on the couch. She nearly bursts into tears.

GOLDIE
Oh, man...I don't wanna hear it...

MADDY
(grabs Goldie)
Get up! Get the fuck up!

Goldie can barely stand. Maddy looks at the other girl.

MADDY
If I see you near her again...I'll kill you. Are you listening to me?!

The DRUM BEATS FASTER.

INT. MADDY'S HOUSE

Maddy sneaks Goldie up the stairs, past Martha, who's glued to the tv.

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - HAMMOND HIGH - NEXT MORNING

where a stack of hundreds of Foxfire zines is depleting by the second as girls moving into and out of stalls are grabbing them and reading them -- intrigued. Entertained. Pissed off. Delighted.

CINDY (O.S.)
(gasping)
Oh, my God!

INT. CORRIDOR

where Cindy is staring at her new appendage in the zine. Kids walking by explode with laughter as they glance up at her. Two girls walking by hiss at her.

THE DRUM BEATS FASTER. FASTER.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE

Three WOMEN TEACHERS study the zine with great interest.

INT. MR. PECK'S OFFICE

where Peck is reading the zine...unnerved.

VIOLET (V.O.)
Foxfire believes we have the right to fight back. If you're with us, act up. Organize. Do guerilla art. All it takes is a can of spray paint, thirty seconds and a little imagination. Be creative. Indecent. Whatever.

CORRIDOR

where a group of girls are reading and laughing.

RITA (V.O.)
Flush your tampons down the toilet. Throw up in the cafeteria. A girl went to prison for defending another girl. Do something. Stop staring. Speak your mind.

CLASSROOM

where Ethan is cutting an orange triangle out of the zine. Inside the triangle is a flame and underneath is a caption that says "Foxfire Solidarity." Ethan pins the triangle to his shirt. So do Steve, Zoe and Freida.

GIRL'S BATHROOM

A toilet overflows...flooding the floor. Four girls dash out of a stall and tear ass down the hallway laughing.

AS CAMERA MOVES DOWN CORRIDOR WE FIND TWO GIRLS pasting Maddy's sketch of Legs' on the wall -- every few feet apart and writing in crayon underneath..."U R so fucking cool!" She is rapidly becoming a local hero.

INT. CAFETERIA - NEXT DAY

The cafeteria is literally breaking down along the lines of "US" and "THEM." Us being three quarters of the girls in the room -- plus an assortment of geeks, headbangers and cool guys in general. Them being the jocks, cheerleaders and bad hair, low achievement crowd.

A group of cheerleaders leer at a girl walking past, wearing a triangle. The girl flips them the bird.

CHEERS, WHISTLES AND BOOHS ERUPT as kids jump to their feet, reacting to .

THE GIRL OUTSIDE THE WINDOW

who is sitting at the top of the flag pole, fixing a black flag with an orange triangle on top of the pole.

Maddy, Violet and Rita throw their arms around Goldie.

RITA
Check it out, Golds!

Goldie manages a dull smile. As Maddy, Rita and Violet move towards the window, Goldie lingers behind. Then slips out.

THE DRUM BEATS FASTER. FRENETIC.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

CLOSE ON A HAND spray painting something on black top -- in dayglo red. PULLING BACK, it reads "CINDY...TELL THE TRUTH!" THREE GIRLS run off.

EXT. ANOTHER STREET

where "CINDY...TELL THE TRUTH!" glistens in day glo on an aqueduct above. A car approaching slows...

INSIDE THE CAR

Cindy looks up at the sign. This is all getting to her.

EXT. PLAYGROUND

where fresh spray paint on the cement reads "LEGS RULES! DEATH TO ALL FUCKHEADS WHO DIS HER!"

WIDENING, WE SEE Goldie slumped on the ground -- lying there lifeless. A beam of headlights swish past her face. She is out cold. Tires screech to a halt.

MADDY (O.S.)
That's her!

RITA (O.S.)
(calling out)
Goldie!

THE DRUM BEATS FURIOUS.

TIGHT ON Maddy, Rita and Violet running towards Goldie.

Maddy shakes Goldie. She is dead weight. And turning blue.

MADDY
(screaming)
Goldie!

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM

where a team of doctors are injecting her with antidotes, monitoring her vital signs and running tubes down her throat.

THE DRUM BEATS WILDLY. VIOLENTLY....THEN STOPS.

OUTSIDE IN THE WAITING ROOM - MIDDLE OF NIGHT

Maddy is staring out the picture window at the town of Hammond. Rita is lying on the couch -- her head in Violet's lap.

MADDY
I called her father. He's out of town.

VIOLET
It's just as well.

MADDY
This wouldn't have happened if Legs were here. She'd know what to do.

Rita and Violet nod. Maddy stares bleary-eyed into space.

DOCTOR
She's going to make it.

They look up at the doctor -- a tall woman with dark skin and understanding eyes who is as relieved as they are.

EXT. CORRECTIONAL YOUTH FACILITY - LATER SAME NIGHT

It is fortressed by high wire fences. Surrounded by woods.

TIGHT ON Maddy sitting inside her mother's car...just staring at the wall separating her from Legs. She opens the car door and gets out. Walks to the fence. Grabs hold of it. And cries...

MADDY
Sheeeenaaaaa! Sheeeennaaaa!

No answer. Maddy chokes back her tears.

INT. LEGS' CELL

Legs is crouched in the corner, staring idly into space. Upon closer look, WE SEE that her face is bruised. And her spirit is gone.

INT. HAMMOND REHAB CENTER

MR. JOHNSON looks at Rita, Maddy and Violet with compassionate eyes.

MR. JOHNSON
Heroin addiction is bigger than all the love, good intentions and hard assed resolve you girls could muster. Your friend Goldie needs in-patient treatment. We provide a ninety day in-patient program followed up by out-patient treatment consisting of group and individual therapy.

RITA
How much will it cost?

Mr. Johnson hands Rita a brochure.

MR. JOHNSON
Look it over. And call me.

The girls nod as they get up. He studies them curiously, noticing their tattoos.

MR. JOHNSON
Are you Foxfire?

They look at him, surprised.

MR. JOHNSON
I've heard about you. My son goes to Hammond High.
(smiles)
He's a fan.

The girls smile.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LATER

The girls are sitting around, guarding Goldie, who is curled up in the corner, shaking and trying to sleep.

MADDY
(looking at brochure)
Ten thousand dollars.

VIOLET
Where the hell are we gonna come up with that?

They look at each other helplessly. A car door shuts outside. WE HEAR HEAVY BOOTS slowly climbing the steps. The girls exchange charged glances.

VIOLET
Forget it.

RITA
It couldn't be.

The door swings open.

MADDY
(dumbfounded)
Legs.

Legs just stands there, looking at them. A chill shoots down Maddy's spine at the sight of her -- her bruised face. Pained smile.

LEGS
What'd you girls do to Cindy?

They jump up and run towards her. She holds her arms out, embracing them...and saves the last hug for Maddy.

Maddy directs Legs to Goldie, who is sleeping in the corner. Legs doesn't have to be told what's gone on. Goldie's frail body and tracks in her arms tell the whole story.

Legs touches Goldie's face softly with her hand. Goldie's eyes open. It takes her a moment to believe what she's seeing.

GOLDIE
(a faint smile)
Legs?

Legs gathers Goldie in her arms and hugs her.

GOLDIE
I'm sorry.

INT. MADDY'S MOM'S CAR

Maddy is driving. Legs is next to her. Rita is in back.

MADDY
They want ten thousand dollars.
Up front.

Legs nods.

RITA
Where the hell are we gonna come
up with that?

Legs just looks out the window. She doesn't know. Maddy studies Legs curiously. She's a bit distant.

Maddy turns the corner and stops the car. She looks straight ahead out the window -- waiting for Legs to do so too. Legs looks out the window and registers surprise as SHE SEES A GIANT THREE STORY DRAWING OF HER DONE IN SPRAY PAINT ON THE SIDE OF A BUILDING. Underneath it is written "NO JUSTICE. NO PEACE."

LEGS
You did that?

MADDY
No.

Legs looks at her, confused.

MADDY
(smiles)
I don't know who did it. That's the beauty of it.

Legs nods, taking it in.

RITA
You wouldn't believe it! You are like a fucking hero around here. Maddy started this zine and we took your case to the school...and this whole thing started happening...

LEGS
(a smile)
Sounds to me like Maddy's the hero around here.

Maddy searches Legs' face. Locates some jealousy...?

LEGS
(smiles)
Hey, how about we get some beers?

Maddy nods. Sure.

EXT. ROOF - EVENING

Maddy and Legs are alone on the roof, sitting side by side on the ledge, drinking beers.

LEGS
They're gonna have to lay me out cold, they ever want me back in there again.

Maddy's studies Legs' sharp-boned face. The distant look in her eyes.

MADDY
Did they hurt you, Legs? Your face...

LEGS
Nah nobody hurt me. I was too smart for 'em. Tell me about you.

MADDY
(sardonic)
Well...I'm being treated like a five year old. At home. At school...
(angry)
And I'm over it. I'm over school. My mother. This town. The whole scene.
(a bit sad)
Everything's changed Legs. I want outta here. I wanna go with you.

LEGS
Ah.

Legs slings her hard lean arm around Maddy's shoulder.

LEGS
Look. Vega is almost at her zenith.

MADDY
God, in all this I almost forgot.

Maddy searches the heavens, then points.

MADDY
Look at Lyra. Just below Vega.

Legs locates the stars.

MADDY
See those two little diamonds... right next to each other?

LEGS
Yeah.

MADDY
(smiles)
I bought those for us.

Legs looks at Maddy -- you what?

MADDY
(laughs)
Through some corny astronomy research center. They sell you stars. Do you believe it?

Legs laughs, somewhat tickled, as she fixes her gaze on the two diamonds in the sky.

MADDY
They're for me and you. So that no matter what happens to us... wherever our lives take us...and no matter how far apart that is...we can always find these stars and know that we're together.

They hold each other's gaze for a long moment.

LEGS
I missed you more than anyone.

Maddy smiles. She knows that. Legs lies back, along the side of the ledge, and stares up at the sky. Moments pass.

LEGS
Goldie's father should pay for her rehab. He's got loads of money.

MADDY
She won't ask him. She's afraid to go near him. He's a beast.

Legs thinks.

LEGS
Then we'll just have to steal him.

Maddy looks at Legs. At the wild-eyed look on her face.

INT. KITCHEN

where Legs is pacing and drinking a beer while Violet, Rita and Maddy anxiously watch her.

LEGS
It's simple. We just borrow him for the weekend. That's all.

RITA
What are you talking about, Legs?

Legs just smiles.

MADDY
Kidnapping.

LEGS
We do it like pros. Clean and fast. We ask for one million to make it look real.

VIOLET
Jesus.

The girls exchange glances. Is she for real?

LEGS
I have it all figured out. No one will get hurt. No one will get caught. We'll be in control every step of the way.

The girls hold on Legs. Dead silence.

LEGS
I'd let him go before I'd let anything happen.

MADDY
This is crazy.

LEGS
It's our only shot.

MADDY
There has to be another way.

Legs' eyes zero in tight on Maddy.

LEGS
Either you got the tits to do this, babe...or you don't.

Maddy hears the challenge loud and clear. They hold each other's gaze.

LEGS
I gotta know.
(a pointed smile)
I can't take people with me who talk themselves into fear.

Surprise and excitement dilute Maddy's fear...are you saying you'll take me with you? Legs smiles. Yeah. Goldie walks into the kitchen. Silence.

GOLDIE
What's going on?

The girls look at her -- at her fragile smile. Her hands shaking.

LEGS
(gentle, compassionate)
We're gonna get you help, Golds. You're gonna be o.k.

Goldie smiles, a bit off. She holds her arms out to Legs. Legs hugs her hard.

LEGS
(to the girls)
I wouldn't proceed with the first step if I didn't already know the final step. No one will get caught. I promise.

Goldie just looks at Legs, huh? Legs targets Maddy with her eyes. The silence becomes charged with anticipation. Maddy nods. Scared...but...

MADDY
O.k.

Rita and Violet exchange scared looks.

LEGS
(smiles)
Me and Maddy will do the hard stuff. We just need you girls to fill in the blanks.

Maddy swallows hard.

EXT. GOLDIE'S HOUSE - NEXT EVENING

Legs and Maddy are in the bushes wearing Ninja Turtle masks and peeking through the

OFFICE/LIBRARY WINDOW

at Dan Seifried, who is fast alseep in his big leather chair.

LEGS
(smiles)
King Dong. Fork it over, daddyo... here we come.

Legs takes the key chain Goldie wears around her neck, out of her pocket.

LEGS
(to Maddy)
Ready?

MADDY
(scared shitless)
No! Yes. Shit. O.k. Yes. Let's go.

They sneak around to the front of the house. Legs slides the key into the door, opens it and punches in the alarm code on the keypad. The red light blinks off. Green blinks on. Legs goes in first.

INT. HOUSE

Legs leads them through the dark -- to the back towards the office.

She peeks into the library and watches Dan doze in the chair for a moment. She gingerly tip toes over to the table and grabs one of his pearl handled guns. Then waves Maddy inside.

Maddy is breathing heavy through her Ninja mask as she removes a burlap bag from under her shirt. They exchange looks, nod to each other, then sneak up on Dan...and...Maddy bags his head. He jumps, startled. Legs presses the gun into his head.

LEGS
(in a low gutteral voice, which could easily be a man's)
You won't get hurt if you cooperate. Understand?

Then she jams the gun harder against his head. He nods, yes. He understands.

Legs takes Maddy's hand and wraps it around the gun.

She opens the medicine cabinet with a little key and peruses its contents. She stops on the little bottle of HALDOL, then removes it and a syringe.

She pushes the needle into the bottle, fills it with the tranquilizer, then gently stabs it into Dan's arm. She waits a beat, then takes the gun from Maddy, jams it into the back of Dan's head and whispers...

LEGS
Let's go.

He gets up slowly. Then staggers against a lamp -- sending it crashing to the floor.

STEPMOTHER (O.S.)
(calling from upstairs)
Dan?'

Shit!

LEGS
(to Dan, sotto)
Tell her you're fine!

DAN
(calling up, slurring his words)
I'ammmm fiiiine.

STEPMOTHER (O.S.)
Dan?

Her footsteps start for the stairs. Legs runs to the glass side doors and opens them. She gestures to Maddy to lock the office door. Maddy runs to the door and bolts it.

Dan tumbles to the floor and passes out cold.

MADDY
(scared, sotto)
Legs!

LEGS
(grabs his feet)
Let's drag him. Come on!

Maddy grabs his arms and together, with all their might, the girls push and drag him out the glass door into the bushes.

The office door knob turns.

STEPMOTHER
Dan? Oh, for God sake!

EXT. YARD

Maddy and Legs drag him along on his belly -- through the bushes. WE SEE the stepmother moving past windows inside the house.

Dan's pants are pulled down around his knees as they drag him. His big ass is hanging out. A dog starts HOWLING nearby.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

Legs and Maddy frantically pull up Dan's pants before pushing him into the back seat of Martha's car.

They jump in, fire up and rocket out of the driveway -- just as the stepmother opens the front door.

STEPMOTHER
(bewildered)
Dan?

INT. CAR

MADDY
(driving)
Legs...I wet my pants.

LEGS
(smiles)
Maddy? Take off your mask.

Maddy rips off her mask. Her hand is shaking on the wheel. Legs rests her hand on Maddy's -- chill. Then she picks rope up off the floor and climbs into the back seat.

MADDY
If my mother only knew what I was doing with her car.
(manages a smile)
She thinks I'm at the library.

Legs smiles as she ties up Dan.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE

The car pulls slowly to the end of the driveway. Rita's and Violet's eyes widen like saucers from the back steps.

Legs and Maddy get out. Legs yanks Dan, who is now bound and gagged with rope, out of the car. Maddy plugs his ears.

VIOLET
Holy shit! They did it.

Rita is speechless.

LEGS
Where's Goldie?

RITA
Sleeping.

LEGS
Good. Let's get him downstairs.

Rita and Violet stare at Dan slumped on the ground with terror.

LEGS
It's too late to be scared, girls. Let's go.

Then Legs opens the cellar doors while Maddy, Rita and Violet lug him down the stairs.

INT. CELLAR

The girls help Dan onto a pile of blankets on the floor. They look at each other -- holy shit.

Legs hands Rita the gun. She stares at it horrified.

LEGS
You do first watch.
(re gun)
I don't think it's loaded.
(smiles)
Just don't fire it.

Then Legs heads up the stairs. Rita sits, obediently pointing the shakey gun at Dan.

KITCHEN

VIOLET
(worried)
What if someone suspects us?

Legs laughs.

LEGS
Hell, hon. we're girls. They'd rather die than suspect us.

Then she cracks open a beer.

LEGS
Relax.

NEXT MORNING

Maddy, Rita, Violet and Legs are sitting around the table.

RITA
I can't relax! He won't eat or drink!

LEGS
He will when he gets hungry enough. Are we ready for the next part?

The girls nod reluctantly. Yeah.

INT. PHONE BOOTH - ANOTHER TOWN

Violet dials a number. The phone picks up. She holds a voice distortion device up to her mouth. Her words come out sounding like an old man's...

VIOLET
Is this Mrs. Seifried? Did you get my note?
(beat)
Good. He's o.k. But if you go to the police, he's a dead man. You understand?

Legs' eyes are following the second hand on a stop watch. She gestures to Violet to hang up. Violet does.

EXT. MAIN STREET - HAMMOND

where a few people are hovering around a local newspaper stand staring at the headline that reads..."LOCAL DOCTOR KIDNAPPED!"

VIOLET (V.O.)
She called the cops.

INT. KITCHEN - ABANDONED HOUSE

LEGS
(glancing at newspaper)
We just have to stay cool.

RITA
(frightened)
But he won't eat!

Goldie walks into the kitchen -- just waking up. Rita hides the newspaper.

CELLAR

Dan Seifried looks pretty bad. He's gaunt. Unshaven. And shaking badly. Violet, Rita, Maddy and Legs watch him.

MADDY
(nervous)
He's sick.

Legs studies him, cool. Unmoved. Rita and Violet send Maddy a look with their pleading eyes...do something.

MADDY
Legs, he's really sick.

Legs hears the protest in Maddy's voice...ignores her.

MADDY
It's not going like you promised. And these guys have to get back home.

Legs eyes harden. But she stays cool.

LEGS
(to Violet and Rita)
Then go. I can handle this.

The girls exchange glances.

LEGS
I'm not giving up on Goldie this soon.

Then Legs grabs a bottle of water and and forces open Dan's mouth. She pushes the plastic bottle into it.

LEGS
(frustrated)
Drink, you sonuvabitch.

Violet and Rita reach for Maddy's hands.

KITCHEN - LATER

VIOLET
He's throwing up all over himself.

GOLDIE
(shuffling in, a bit out if it)
Who's throwing up?

LEGS
Toby.

Goldie glances at Toby who's lying in the corner -- snoozing. She just nods. Oh.

CELLAR

Dan spews vomit onto the floor. Maddy, Rita and Violet are horrified.

MADDY
We have to let him go, Legs.

LEGS
You're overreacting. Toughen up.

MADDY
No, Legs. You listen up.

Legs looks at Maddy...oh yeah?

MADDY
You said we'd let him go before anyone gets hurt. He's hurting.

RITA
(frantic)
You promised!

Legs studies the girls. Then manages a tight smile.

LEGS
Hurting...is relative. Let's give him one more day.

MADDY
No.

Legs studies Maddy...the girls...

LEGS
(a harsh smile)
Mutiny?

MADDY
Legs. This isn't about you.

LEGS
Right. It's about you.
(to the others)
Hey, she's the boss. Do whatever she tells you.
(looking at Maddy)
But I'm staying here.

Maddy registers anger. Confusion.

MADDY
(reaching out)
Legs! You're wrong about this! And don't tell me you're not scared.

Legs turns her back on Maddy. She picks the gun off the shelf and pretends to study it. Then looks up.

LEGS
Honey, if you wanna leave...if you wanna quit us...I understand.
(pauses)
Maybe you should get your things and leave.

Maddy looks slapped. Stung. Deeply hurt. Violet and Rita watch on incredulous as Maddy and Legs square off with charged, furious stares.

MADDY
(quietly)
You win.

As Maddy turns and starts up the stairs, her face fills with hurt. Betrayal. Rage. She slams the door behind her.

Legs stands there, staring down at the floor...hurt. Betrayed. Quiet. Finally, she raises her eyes to look at Violet and Rita, who are just standing there. Speechless.

LEGS
Go home, girls. Get a good night's sleep. I can handle tonight alone.

LATER

Legs is sitting next to Dan. They are alone. His gag is removed. She gently presses the water bottle against his lips.

LEGS
Come on, mister, drink.

But he doesn't. Legs puts the bottle on the floor. She looks scared.

INT. MADDY'S KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Maddy looks like shit. No sleep. Her eyes are swollen from crying. And her mind is reeling.

CHUCK
(reading the local paper)
This is a terrible situation.
(looking up at Maddy)
Dr. Seifried.

MADDY
(ironic)
Yup.

Martha regards Maddy.

MARTHA
How is Goldie dealing with it?

MADDY
(shrugs)
She's pretty out of it.

CHUCK
I would be too.

MARTHA
Honey, if she'd like to stay here...
with us...

Maddy regards the kindness in her mother's eyes.

MADDY
(smiles, gets up)
I'll mention it to her.

Then Maddy starts out the door.

MARTHA
Isn't it a little early for school?

No reply.

INT. CELLAR

Legs is sitting in the darkness, against a pole -- staring at Dan, who's even more deteriorated.

MADDY
Hi.

LEGS
(without turning)
What are you doing here?

MADDY
I brought someone with me.

Then Maddy strikes a match...lights a candle.

GOLDIE
What the fuck...?

Legs springs to her feet. She looks at Goldie staring at her father. Goldie shudders.

MADDY
It's not the drugs, Golds. It's real.

GOLDIE
You...stole...my...old...man?

MADDY
We were hoping to trade him in for the money for your rehab. But he won't cooperate. And he's getting sick.

Goldie steps closer to her father. She studies him, incredulous. He is sweating profusely. Shaking.

GOLDIE
(a vague smile)
Jesus...Christ.

LEGS
He's a junkie, Golds.

What?' Maddy looks at Legs...

LEGS
He's withdrawing.

Goldie stares at her father, trying to absorb this.

LEGS
(gently)
He's sicker than you, babe.

Goldie moves slowly towards her father, examining him carefully. She sits down in front of him and watches him shake. She is blown away.

KITCHEN

Legs and Maddy are alone at the table.

LEGS
(quietly)
Maybe it'll explain some things for her. His bullshit...

Maddy looks at Legs, a bit guilty. Sorry.

MADDY
We had to tell her, Legs. She's the only one who can get us out of this.

Legs nods.

LEGS
You did the right thing.

Maddy registers surprise. Relief.

LEGS
(shrugs)
I got scared.

Maddy nods. Yeah.

CELLAR - LATER

It is pitch black. Goldie strikes a match and lights a candle. And stares at her sick father for a long moment, working up the courage to go over to him. She starts for him slowly. Then stops. Removes his gag. His ear plugs. And then his blindfold. His eyes blink. His vision adjusts.

DAN
Gwendolyn?!

GOLDIE
Yeah. It's me.

DAN
How did you find me?

Goldie just stares at him. It hits him.

DAN
My, God! Why?

GOLDIE
I need ten thousand dollars.

He just stares at her. Goldie pulls a vile of pills out of her pocket. Takes out a yellow one.

GOLDIE
Open your mouth. This'll stop the cramps.

He looks into her eyes and registers deep humiliation. Then opens his mouth...and swallows.

DAN
(weakly)
The money. What for?

GOLDIE
I'm a fucking drug addict. I need help.

He nods. O.k.

GOLDIE
You have to do it my way. There are people I need to protect.

More silence. He holds on her.

GOLDIE
I want you to call your wife and tell her to drop the million off where we've told her to.
(honestly)
I'll return what I don't use.

He nods. Then studies her for a long, tense moment.

DAN
(a small, ironic smile)
Like father like daughter. Huh?

Goldie manages a smile.

EXT. BRIDGE - THAT NIGHT

Legs is perched on top of the bridge that she and Maddy walked across weeks earlier. Her eyes scan every car that passes under. She looks out over the river -- across the whole town of Hammond. A wind kicks up. She pulls her jacket tight.

Moments pass. Then a flashlight in the near distance switches on. Off. Legs looks over at Violet -- sitting up in a tree holding a flashlight. And then a pair of headlights pierce the darkness. A station wagon slowly enters the bridge. The driver's door opens and a bag is dumped on the road. The car keeps going.

Legs instantly launches into motion -- swinging off a metal beam, sliding down a rail and sweeping the bag up with her feet. Maddy pulls up in her mother's car with Rita next to her. Violet and Legs jump in.

INT. CELLAR

Goldie blindfolds her father as she hears the girls enter the house. Her eyes are glazed and she looks high as she picks the gun up off a shelf and turns it around in her hands. The girls run down the stairs.

RITA
We did it!

LEGS
Does he know what to say?

GOLDIE
He'll say the right thing.
(a stoned smile)
We had a little party together...

LEGS
(noticing the gun)
Put it down, Golds.

Goldie sends Legs a smile -- waves the gun around at nothing in particular.

LEGS
(reaching for the gun, cool)
You can untie him. Everyone get upstairs.

Goldie playfully moves away from Legs. Legs smiles...come on, Golds.

GOLDIE
Is it loaded?

LEGS
Yeah. Give it over.

Goldie aims the gun at the brick wall and partially pulls the trigger, playing with the tension.

LEGS
Goldie!

Then Toby barks and jumps on Goldie and...A SHOT IS FIRED...slamming right into Dan's chest. Goldie shrieks.

GOLDIE
Dad!

He's pumping blood. This is happening all too fast. The girls are trying to absorb it. Legs grabs a cellular phone off the shelf as Goldie stares dumbstruck at her father.

LEGS
Everyone outta here! Now! Up-stairs!

The girls look at Legs. She means it. Now! Rita and Violet start for the stairs.

LEGS
(to Violet)
Take Goldie!

GOLDIE
No way!

Legs removes Dan's blindfold.

LEGS
You're gonna be o.k.

Dan looks at Legs frightened.

GOLDIE
(crying)
It was an accident.

Legs punches 911 on the phone.

LEGS
(into phone)
Yes. This is an emergency.

UPSTAIRS

Maddy is by the stairs. The door opens.

LEGS
Get outta here. All of you.

Legs stuffs a wad of bills into Violet's hands.

LEGS
Take care of Goldie. Go.
(to Maddy)
Take Toby...and meet me at the bridge.

Then Legs disappears down the stairs.

CELLAR

Legs puts her arm around Goldie, who is crying silently as her father lies there bleeding.

LEGS
He's not gonna die. I'm gonna stay here with him til they come.

WE HEAR SIRENS faintly approaching. Dan looks at them.

DAN
Get out of here.

Goldie looks at him.

DAN
I can't protect you if you stay. I'll be o.k. Go on!

Legs pulls Goldie to her feet. And drags her up the back steps to the yard. Legs holds her hand tight and tears ass across the field to a busy two lane street.

They stop.

LEGS
Eveything's gonna turn out o.k., Golds.

Goldie nods. She'd give anything to believe it.

LEGS
Now get outta here. Go!

Legs sends her a parting smile as she starts across the

street alone.

Legs watches an ambulance shooting past. Then she steps off the sidewalk and starts walking.

EXT. THE BRIDGE

Legs starts onto the bridge...and sees Maddy waiting at the other side. They move towards each other. Their eyes lock.

They meet up.

LEGS
You ready?

Maddy doesn't answer her. Then...

MADDY
Legs...you don't have to go.

Legs nods softly.

LEGS
(a smile)
I kind of wish that were true.

Maddy looks at the highway, a block away. Then Legs.

MADDY
I wanna go...

Tears well up in her eyes. She's torn.

LEGS
Tell you what...I'm gonna do this...
(sticks out her thumb)
And when a car stops...you'll know.
(smiles)
You won't have to think...

Maddy turns towards the highway. She takes Legs' other hand in hers. They walk backwards, hitchiking in silence. Cars whoosh past. Then a truck pulls over up ahead. Yup. It's a ride.

Maddy looks at Legs...oh, God...

LEGS
(smiles gently)
Just do what's right.

Maddy smiles through her tears. Then throws her arms around Legs. Holds her tight.

MADDY
I'll never forget you, Legs.

Tears spring into Legs dark eyes.

LEGS
(a soft smile)
You're my heart, Maddy.

Then Legs turns...and walks towards the truck. And never looks back again.

MADDY (V.O.)
That's the last thing she said to me.

TIGHT ON LEGS climbing onto the flatbed of the truck.

MADDY (V.O.)
She left just like she came. Alone.

WIDENING WE SEE Toby jump up behind her.

MADDY (V.O.)
More or less...

As we watch the truck pull out...

MADDY (V.O.)
Goldie's dad survived. And he didn't give us up. The Feds are still looking for two big white guys with southern accents.

EXT. RISD CAMPUS - MONTHS LATER - THE FALL

As Maddy walks along the campus of Rhode Island School of Design carrying a paint box...

MADDY (V.O.)
Six days after Goldie got out of rehab, Dr. Seifried went in. We all made it out of high school and into college. We keep in touch.

INT. ART STUDIO - CAMPUS - EVENING

Maddy applies a brush stroke to a simple, heartfelt painting...of a mother tossing her daughter a ball over her shoulder.

MADDY (V.O.)
There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of her. I hope I always will.

Maddy throws the brush into a can of turpentine then whips off her sweat shirt. She is wearing a sleeveless tee-shirt. She moves to the sinks and throws water on her face. A girl who steps up next to her notices the tattoo on Maddy's arm.

GIRL
(admiring it)
Nice tattoo. What is it?

MADDY
Foxfire.

The girl regards her, perplexed.

MADDY
(a great smile)
Girls who run with foxes...that sort of thing.

Then she grabs a towel and goes to a door and opens it. She draws in a deep breath and as she looks up at the sky -- at the two diamond like stars twinkling side by side, "I CALL YOU" SUNG BY TOSHI REAGON AND NONA HENDRIX FADES UP ON THE SOUNDTRACK AND....CREDITS ROLL.

The End